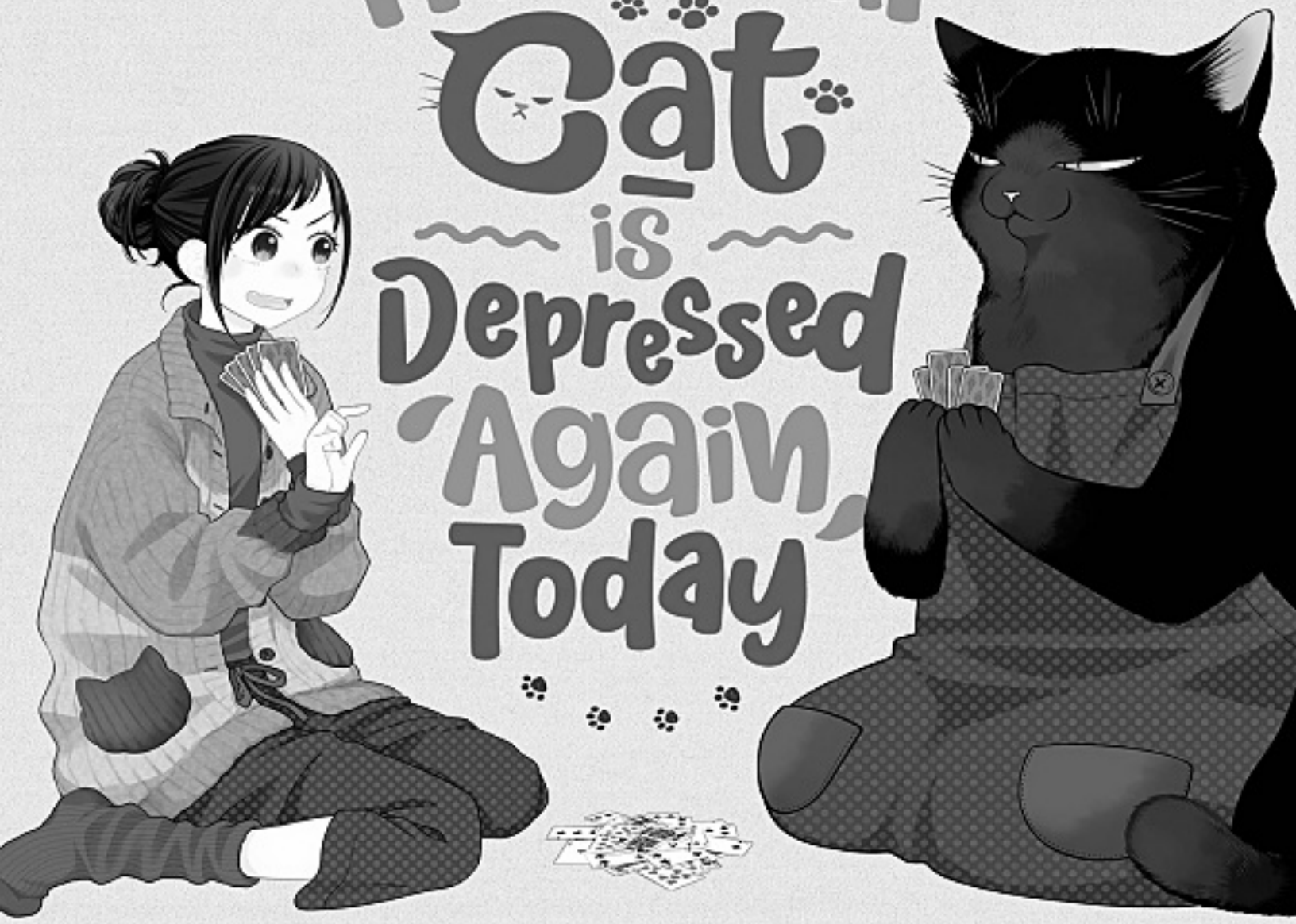
The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again Today



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Story and Art by
Hitsuzi Yamada

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again Today
6
By Hifusi Yamada

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again Today

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BONUS
THE MASTERFUL CAT COOKS RICE 111

HEY, FUKUZAWA?
DO YOU THINK YOU'LL EVER GET A SECOND ONE?
A SECOND WHAT?
A SECOND CAT.
I HAVE A FRIEND WHO'S THINKING OF GETTING ANOTHER CAT.
2...
SQUISH...
みっちり...
NO WAY!
THERE WON'T BE ANY SPACE LEFT FOR ME IN BED!
REALLY?
I THINK YOU COULD STILL FIT WITH TWO CATS.
FLUFF
ふわふわ
FLUFF
ふわふわ

MM...
OH RIGHT, HE'S AN INDOOR-OUTDOOR CAT.
MY CAT CAN GO OUTSIDE WHENEVER HE WANTS, SO...
RIGHT?
THEY SAID THEIR CAT MIGHT BE LONELY SINCE THEY'RE ALONE AT HOME ALL DAY.

PFF!
ミリリッ
LIKE IF HE DECIDES TO BRING HOME A WIFE ONE DAY.
IN THAT CASE, YOU MIGHT END UP WITH A SECOND CAT ANYWAY.
LOL!

GUH!
A WHUH...
A WIFE...!
ゲホ KOFF!
HACK! ゴホ
WHOA!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SHOCK YOU OR ANYTHING!

モフ
FLOOF
WHAT SIZE WOULD SHE BE?!

IT WOULDN'T BE THAT UNUSUAL IF HE MET SOMEONE WHILE HE'S OUT THERE!
HE DOES GO OUT BY HIMSELF DURING THE DAY TO GO GROCERY SHOPPING AND STUFF.
...
WOULD SHE COME LIVE WITH US?!
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HE FOUND A WIFE?
BECAUSE I'M (TECHNICALLY) HER MOTHER-IN-LAW!!
WHAT IF SHE HATES ME?
WHAT IF I MESS THINGS UP?
ゴロ ROLL ーン
OH... I GUESS THINGS COULD BE KINDA ROUGH IN THE WINTER.
THEY'LL KICK ME OUT!

HE MIGHT JUST NOT COME BACK.
ALTHOUGH, THEY ARE ANIMALS, SO RATHER THAN BRINGING HOME A MATE...

BUT DON'T ANIMALS LIKE, LEAVE THE NEST DURING MATING SEASON?
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT CATS...
HUH?
WHA?!
REALLY?!

DEATH!!
YOU REALLY LOVE CATS, HUH?
BUT... I'LL DIE.
OHHHHH THANK GOD.
WOW, REALLY?
AND I DON'T THINK THEY'D JUST STOP COMING HOME ENTIRELY.
NO, CATS DON'T REALLY RAISE THEIR YOUNG WITH THEIR MATES.

HUM!
ほく
HUM!
ほく

GASP!
はっ
YOU SURE ARE IN A GOOD MOOD, YUKICHI.
DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN TO--

D-D-DID...
DID SOME-THING GOOD HAPPEN TODAY?
?
WHAT THEN?
WHAT IF HE FOUND TRUE LOVE?
UH... UMM...
UH...

TA-DA!
ばーん
FLOURISH!
どやっ
OHHHHH!
THERE WAS A SALE TODAY!
CAN'T WAIT TO SPLIT IT!!
RAW
TODAY'S SPECIAL

I FEEL LIKE I'VE BECOME SCARED OF CHANGE.
I NEED TO PULL IT TOGETHER. I'VE GOTTEN TOO COMFORTABLE WITH OUR CURRENT LIFE.
THE TUNA, RIGHT?
YOU WANT...
FIDGET
FIDGET

I WANT YUKICHI TO BE HAPPY.
PERK
BUT NO MATTER WHAT...
!

AND HE WANTED US TO LIVE TOGETHER...
SO IF HE DID FIND A WIFE ONE DAY...

?
I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER...
TO SUCK UP TO HER!

CAN 57 END

ZZZ...
すー
ZZZ...
すー

MHH...
I DON'T... MY COMPUTER ...
WHY...

むく FWIP...
...
?
SNIFFLE...
I'M SO SOR...

!!
NIGHTMARE
うーん
NNGH!
はあ
HUFF!
はあ
HUFF!
WHERE ARE THE DOCUMENTS FOR THE HAND-OFF ?!

MMPH?!
SNIFF... SNIFF...
CAT PAW THERAPY
PRESS
!!
YUKICHI'S GONE...
WHERE IS HE...?
DRIP
DRIP
OHH...
SNIFFLE! YUKICHI...
SHAKE
SHAKE
MMGH
TSK!
WOULD SLEEP THROUGH AN EARTHQUAKE.
.....

STEAM...
ぼ
CLINK
カチャ
……
ゃあ…
CLINK
カチャ
Floral Water
CHAMOMILE
Floral Water
LAVENDER
Floral Water
BERGAMOT
ポタ
DRIP
タタ…
FLORAL WATER.
PRESSURE POINT MASSAGE FOR A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.
SQUEEZE
にぎ
にぎ
SQUEEZE
にぎ
SQUEEZE
にぎ
COOLING EYE MASK.
すぴ
SNOOOOORE…
Z

AHHH!
スッキリーー♡
REFRESHED
I SLEPT LIKE A ROCK!!
I FEEL LIKE I DREAMT A LOT THOUGH.
BUT I CAN BARELY REMEMBER A THING!
THANKS FOR BREAK-FAST! ☆
......
OH, BUT I DO REMEMBER...
AWW...
ほう..♡
DREAMING THAT YOU WERE SMALL AND YOU WERE KNEADING ON ME! ♡
ふみふみふみ
KNEAD KNEAD KNEAD
ふーみふみふみ
KNEEEAD KNEAD KNEAD
IT FELT SOOO NICE~! ♡
OH, UH!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, YUKICHI?
IT'S ONLY MORNING AND YOU ALREADY LOOK EXHAUSTED.
......
SIGH!
SLUMP
CAN 58 END

CHATTER
EAST EXIT.....
TRANSFER...
!
CHATTER
FUKUZAWA-SAN?

COLOR
G-G-G...
GREEN!!
BOW
OH?
NISHINA-SA--
HUH?!
CHANGE!

TH-THANKS.
THAT'S SO COOL! YOUR HAIR LOOKS GREAT!
AND YOU'RE PLAYING A SHOW?!
YOU'RE IN A BAND?!
I GOT PERMISSION FROM THE MANAGER.
MY BAND'S GOT A GIG COMING UP, SO I KINDA WANTED TO DO SOMETHING CRAZY FOR IT.

HE ALWAYS FREAKS OUT WHEN SOMEONE CHANGES THEIR HAIR STYLE OR COLOR.
OH GOSH.
I'M SO SORRY ABOUT HIM!
FLINCH
?!
?!
JOLT
OH, YUKICHI-SAN! WELCOME.
WHEN YUKICHI SAW ME YESTERDAY...
HE LOOKED AT ME LIKE HE HAD NO IDEA WHO I WAS.

W-WOW.
THAT'S, UM, WILD...
IT'S ME!
?!
WHO ARE YOU?!
AHHHHHH!
WHEN HE WAS LITTLE, I PUT MY HAIR UP IN A BUN FOR THE FIRST TIME AND HE HID FROM ME. HE HAD A FIST UP LIKE HE WAS READY TO PUNCH ME...

UM...
SO, UM... WHEN DID YUKICHI-SAN BECOME...THE WAY HE IS?
I'M NOT SURPRISED HE'S GOT ALL SORTS OF QUIRKS.
WELL, HE DOES GO AROUND IN A CAT COSTUME AND EAT CAT FOOD, SO...

UM, I THINK IT STARTED AROUND WHEN HE WAS TWO OR THREE?
OH, NO! IT'S FINE.
SORRY, THAT'S A PRETTY PERSONAL QUESTION.
OH!

?!
I NEVER THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
SO THAT'S HOW HE ENDED UP THE WAY HE IS.
I WAS ALWAYS BUSY WITH WORK, I ENDED UP LEAVING HIM ALONE A LOT OF THE TIME...

FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE ALL THE THINGS HE DID FOR ME.
I'LL JUST BECOME A CAT.
FINE. IF YOU WON'T PAY ME ATTENTION...
SO YUKICHI-SAN RETREATED INTO THE CAT COSTUME BECAUSE...
HE WAS SAD FUKUZAWA-SAN DIDN'T PAY ENOUGH ATTENTION TO HIM?!
I REALLY DON'T DESERVE YUKICHI.
I ONLY EVER THOUGHT ABOUT MY OWN PROBLEMS.
HEH.
A REALLY IMPORTANT PERSON TO YUKICHI-SAN.
FUKUZAWA-SAN MUST BE...
IT'S SO COLD TODAY!
YEESH!
HE IS KIND OF A WEIRDO, THOUGH.
I FEEL BAD FOR THINKING HE WAS JUST SOME WEIRDO IN A CAT COSTUME WHEN I FIRST MET HIM.

ARE THE TWO OF YOU... FAMILY?
SINCE YOU KNEW HIM WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.
MSM
UM...
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK.

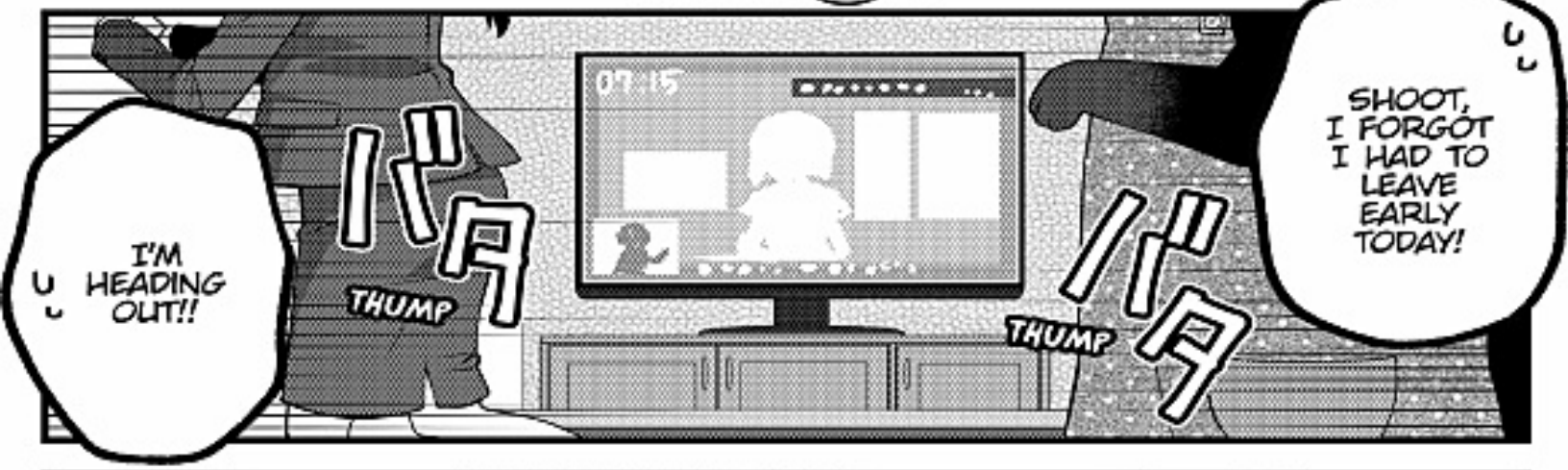
OH!
YEAH, WE ARE!
AT THIS POINT I CAN'T THINK OF HIM AS JUST A PET ANYMORE.
?!

NISHINA'S MISUNDER-STANDING CONTINUES.
DO YOU WANT A HAND WARMER?
ARE YOU OKAY?! ARE YOU COLD?!
IS SHE IMPLYING THAT SHE USED TO THINK OF HIM LIKE THAT???
I'M TOO SCARED TO ASK...
HUH?
WHAT DOES SHE MEAN BY THAT??!

チョキ
SNIP
チョキ
SNIP
チョキ
SNIP
チョキ
SNIP
THANKS FOR ALWAYS CUTTING MY HAIR.

CAN 59 END

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today


I'M HEADING OUT!!
THUMP
07:15
THUMP
SHOOT, I FORGOT I HAD TO LEAVE EARLY TODAY!

IT'S FINE, GO WATCH IT!
OH! THE UMYU-SEA SPECIAL STARTED?
UMYU-SEA RELEASED A NEW SONG AND MUSIC VIDEO TODAY!
THEY'VE ANNOUNCED A COLLABORATION WITH A CHAIN OF CONVENIENCE STORES--

THANKS FOR PACKING MY LUNCH!
AH HA HA!
SERIOUSLY, IT'S OKAY. I CAN LOCK THE DOOR MYSELF.
GLANCE
!

!
AND NOW, UMYU-SEA'S NEW SINGLE!
"ONIGIRI"!

Rice ball labels: Fumata, Ardea, Sea Bunny, Festiva, Aurora

ON SALE !!
PHONE.
S-S-SIR!

LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH BEFORE WE'RE LATE.
I'VE GOT A MEETING FIRST THING.
YOINK
OH, NO, I WAS JUST LOOKING! YOU DON'T HAVE TO--
HEY!

ISN'T THAT THE POINT OF AN AD LIKE THIS?
BACK UP SO FAR...!
OH PLEASE DON'T...
I-ISN'T IT WEIRD TO TAKE A PHOTO WITH AN ADVERTISEMENT?!

SHE WOKE UP EARLY FOR THIS?
カシャ
KA SNAP SNAP SNAP
YUME TOOK THE FIRST TRAIN HERE TO TAKE A PICTURE WITH IT TODAY.

LOOKING FOR RICE BALLS? IS THIS FOR SOME KIND OF NEW FESTIVAL I HAVEN'T HEARD OF?
?
THANK YOU...
ARE YOU ALSO LOOKING FOR THE RICE BALLS?

OH, RIGHT!
THIS MUST BE WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT ON TV THIS MORNING!
MOWSON collaboration!!
THEY'RE COLLABORATING WITH THE CONVENIENCE STORE MOWSON TO SELL SPECIAL, LIMITED-RUN RICE BALLS.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
IT'S TO PROMOTE THE NEW SINGLE.

I SHOULD TRY AND FIND THEM ON MY WAY HOME TODAY...
GOOGLING IT.
YUKICHI IS DEFINITELY GOING TO WANT THIS!

MAYBE I SHOULD ALSO JOIN THE FAN CLUB WHILE I'M AT IT!!
THE FAN CLUB NEWSLETTER GOT NEWS ABOUT IT AHEAD OF TIME.
APPARENTLY, THEY'RE REQUIRED TO ENTER A RAFFLE FOR LIMITED EDITION MERCHANDISE, SO THEY'RE SELLING OUT LEFT AND RIGHT.

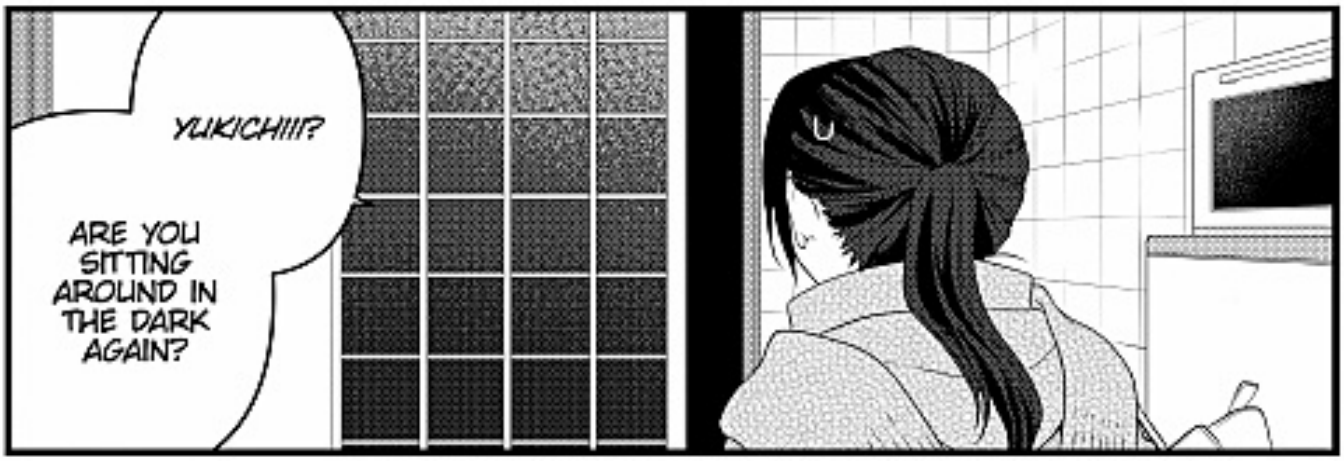
O-OH, WELL IF THEY STILL HAVE SOME LEFT MAYBE I CAN SNAG AT LEAST ONE...
YOU NEED FIVE STICKERS FOR ONE RAFFLE ENTRY.
THE LONGER YOU WAIT, THE MORE THEY WILL SELL OUT.
.....

YOU NEED FIVE?! MAYBE I CAN STILL FIND SOME IF I GO NOW.
WHERE'S THE NEAREST MOW-SON?!
RUSTLE
THERE'S NO HARM IN JUST TAKING A QUICK LOOK, RIGHT?

THERE'S NO MOWSON IN THE AREA.
RUSTLE
MOWSON
DID HE ALSO GET UP EARLY TO HUNT FOR THOSE?!

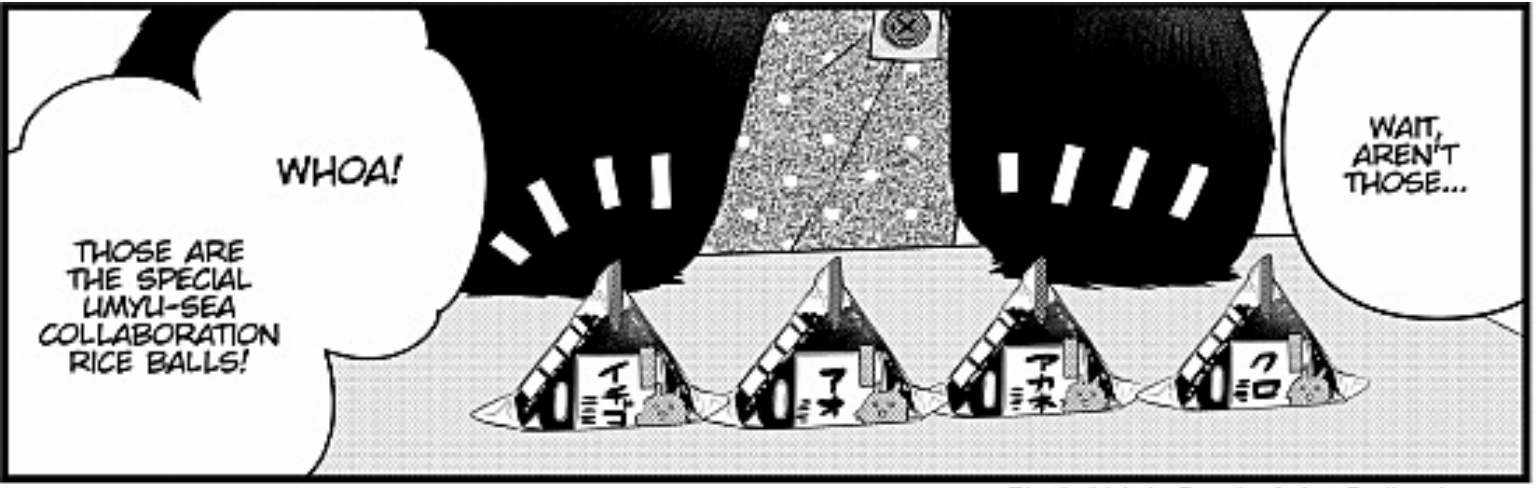
OKAY, SO I'VE GOT A BIT OF A LATE START, BUT I CAN DO THIS! FOR YUKICH!!
CAN YOU EAT ALL THOSE BY YOURSELF?
STARE
I'M NOT GOING TO.
I HAVE TO SKIP OUT ON OVERTIME TODAY AND GO LOOK FOR THOSE RICE BALLS!!
QUEST ACCEPTED.

GLOOM...
ずーん...
QUEST COMPLETE!!
I HAD TO TAKE THE LAST TRAIN BUT I'M FINALLY HOME...


YUKICHIII?
ARE YOU SITTING AROUND IN THE DARK AGAIN?

SLIDE...
カラ...
I KNOW YOU CAN SEE...
BUT IT'S A LITTLE SPOOKY KNOWING YOU'RE JUST HIDING IN THE DARKNESS.

AH!!
WH-WHAT'S WRONG?!
GLOOOOOM...
ずうううん...



Rice ball labels: Fumsta, Ardea, Festiva, Aurora

I LIKE RICE BALLS THOUGH, SO I DON'T REALLY MIND.
PEEL
AW, YOU HAVE TO TEAR THROUGH THE NAME.
I GUESS I'LL BE HAVING RICE BALLS FOR A COUPLE MEALS.

!!
IT SURE WAS TASTY!
ALTHOUGH THEY WERE LESS "RICE BALLS" AND MORE BALLS OF JUST RICE!
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE FIRST THING YOU EVER MADE FOR ME WAS A RICE BALL.

YOU WERE TRYING TO SAY "STAY STRONG!"
IT FELT LIKE...

HM?
DID YOU WANT SOME OF THE SEAWEED?
STARE

HERE YOU GO.
CRUNCH CRUNCH
IS IT GOOD?
WOW, IT'S SO GOOD YOU'RE CRYING?
CRUNCH...
OKAY, I'LL GO LOOK FOR SOME MORE TOMORROW.
"Thank you, Yukichiiii.
SOB!
"I'll stay strong and do my best tomorrow."
WHA?!
"IF YOUR CAT IS CRYING WHILE EATING IT COULD BE A SIGN OF ILLNESS!"
OH NOO—OO!
SHAKESHAKESHAKESHAKE

UMYU Sea! New Single
ONIGIRI
ON SALE !!
...?
OH YEAH.
THERE WAS THIS GIANT POSTER AT THE STATION BY THE OFFICE.
DON'T ASK ME WHY I'M ALSO IN THE PHOTO.

CAN GO END

S-S-S-S...!
SIR!!
...
WHAT IS IT?
L-L-LOOK AT THIS!
BAM
Inbox
1 of 20860
KIDS-ONLY FAN-MEETUP!!
CALLING ALL THE LITTLE SEA SLUG SOLDIERS!
ISN'T THIS YOUR NIECE?!
IT IS.
HEE HEE!
FAN CLUB NEWS-LETTER
I SEE YOU'VE JOINED THE FAN CLUB.

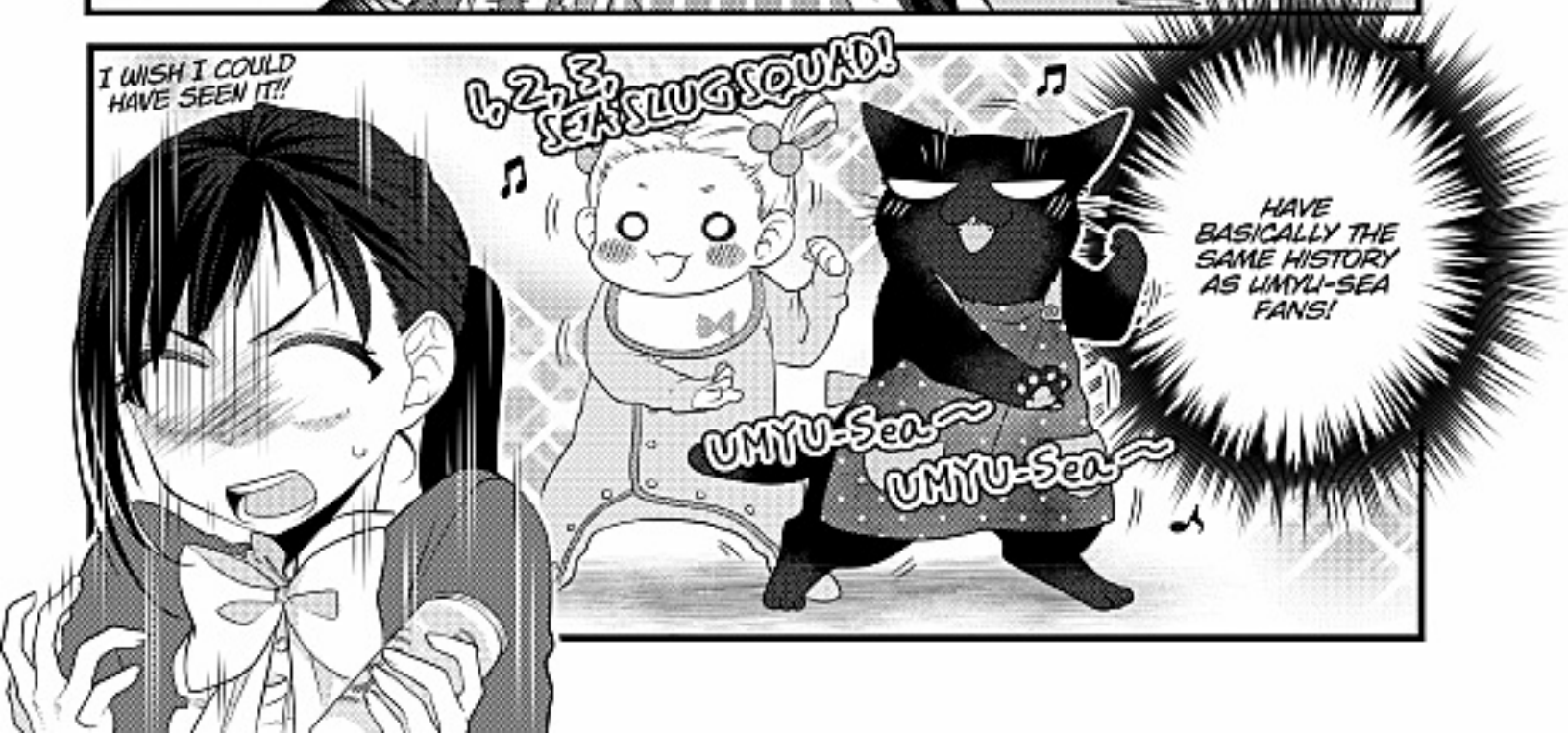
THAT'S AMAZING!
WHEN DID YUME-CHAN FIRST BECOME AN UMYU-SEA FAN?
HM... SHE WAS PROBABLY BORN THAT WAY.
SERI-OUSLY?!
SHE LEARNED HOW TO ROLL OVER WHEN UMYU-SEA CAME ON TV.
ROLL ごろW っ
GO! SEA SLUG SQUAD!
UMYU-SEA!!
HER FIRST WORDS WERE "SEA SLUG."
SWUG...
SEA...
パン PAT
パン PAT
WHOA. YUME-SENPAI IS INCREDIBLE!
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE CALLING HER NOW?
HOW DEDI-CATED!

SHE DOES GET SCOUTED FOR CHILD ACTING OR CHILD MODELING EVERY NOW AND THEN...
BUT SHE NEVER DID ANY OF THAT.
MEM-BER!!
THE YOUNG-EST...
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THEY SCOUTED HER TO BE THE NEWEST MEMBER OF UMYU-SEA!
NO.
I WON'T LET MY PRECIOUS DAUGHTER WORK IN SUCH A DANGEROUS INDUSTRY!
DAD
OH, BECAUSE HER PARENTS WOULDN'T LET HER, RIGHT?
THAT GIRL REALLY KNOWS HER OWN MIND.
NO THANK-YOU
SHE SAID, "I JUST WANT TO STAN MY FAVES. I DON'T WANNA BE STANNED."
I THINK SO...?
IS SHE REALLY ONLY FOUR YEARS OLD?

WHEN EXACTLY DID YUKICHI BECOME A FAN OF UMYU-SEA?
はた
GA-TUNK
ACTUALLY...

WAS THAT WHEN HE STARTED?
I DO REMEMBER COMING HOME WHEN HE WAS A KITTEN AND WONDERING WHY THE TV WAS ON.

THAT WOULD MEAN THAT YUKICHI AND YUME-CHAN...
IF IT WAS, THEN...


I WISH I COULD HAVE SEEN IT!!
1, 2, 3, SEA SLUG SQUAD!
UMYU-Sea~
UMYU-Sea~
HAVE BASICALLY THE SAME HISTORY AS UMYU-SEA FANS!

N-NOTHING!
I WAS JUST THINKING HOW CUTE YUME-CHAN MUST HAVE BEEN AS A BABY!!
GASP!
はっ
YOU'RE MAKING A WEIRD FACE...
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?
WAIT, NO...
THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN INFANT AND A TODDLER! IT'S LIKE THEY TRANSFORM INTO A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON!
SHE WASN'T THAT DIFFERENT FROM HOW SHE IS NOW.
ROUND.
LOUD...
YES, REALLY!
ALTHOUGH...
REALLY...?
?
SHE PROBABLY DIDN'T CHANGE NEARLY AS MUCH AS YUKICHI DID.
HA-HA-HA...
どーん
LOOM

SECRET FAN MEETUP

CAN 61 END

EXTRA HANDS NEEDED AT THE REGISTERS.
WE'RE ALMOST THERE, OKAY?
WE JUST NEED TO PAY AND WE'RE DONE!
WAAAAH!
UWAAAAAAAAAAAH!
I REPEAT, STAFF NEEDED AT THE REGISTERS.
CHATTER
CHATTER

GLARE
TSK!
WAAAH!
GYAAAAAAAH!
WAH!
MAYBE I SHOULD GO TO THE BACK OF THE LINE.
BUT IF I DON'T HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE, HE'S JUST GOING TO GET MORE AND MORE UPSET!

FREEZE
AH...
HUH?!
HE STOPPED CRYING?!

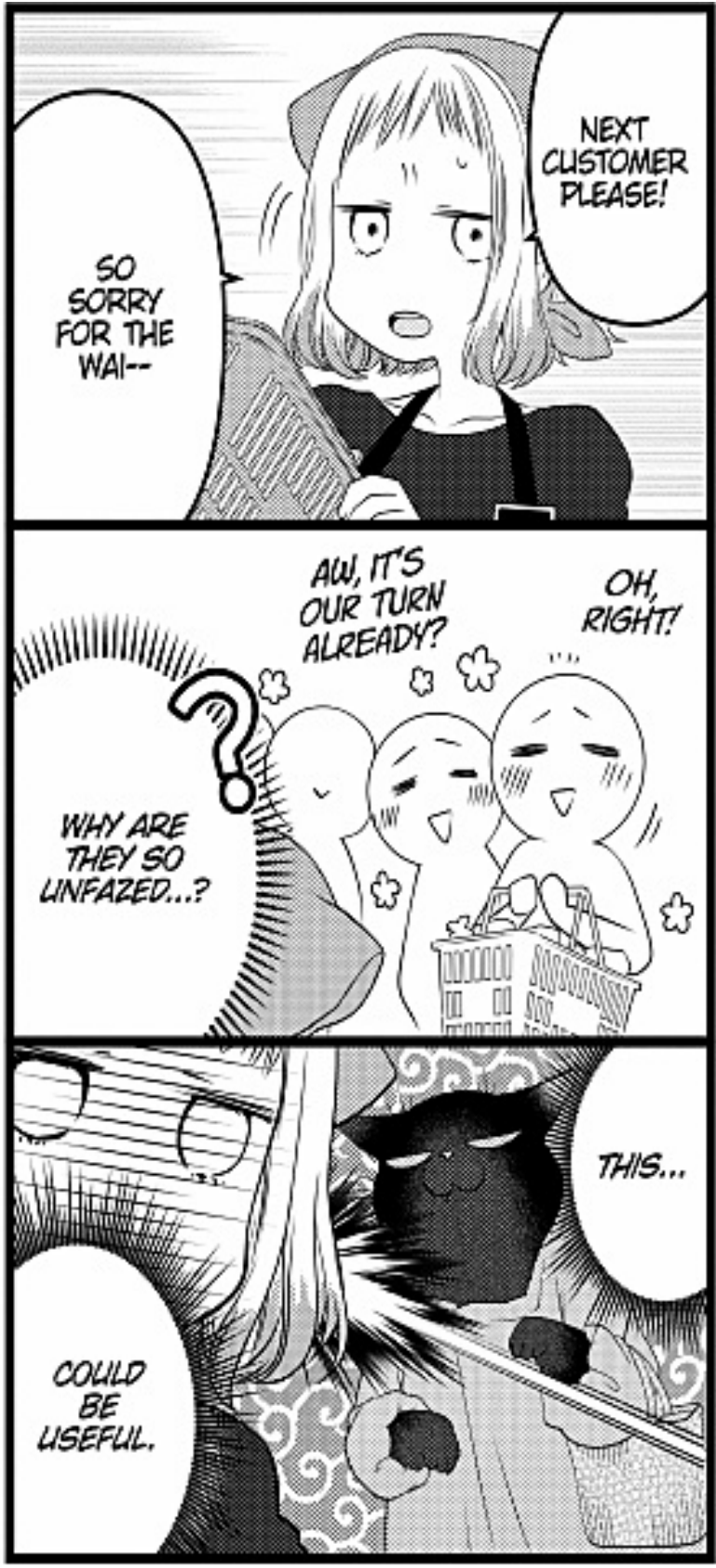
SQUISH
HEE HEE!
???

I'VE SEEN THEM AROUND BEFORE!
IT'S THE PERSON IN THE CAT COSTUME!
U-UM...
TH-TH-THANK YOU...

AH!
I-I'M SORRY!
FLAIL
ばっ
FWISH...

SOMETIMES PEOPLE WILL SECRETLY MAKE FACES AT A BABY WHEN THEY THINK THE PARENT ISN'T LOOKING.
BUT ONCE YOU THANK THEM IT GETS AWKWARD!
BLEH BLEH BLEH!
べろべろばー
HEE HEE!
SHOOT, I SHOULD HAVE JUST PRETENDED NOT TO SEE THEM!

THEY MANAGED TO REACH THE CHECK-OUT WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT.
URGHHHH! BUT I REALLY, REALLY WANT TO LOOK THIS TIME!!
TREMBLE
ぷる
TREMBLE
ぷる
あきゃきゃきゃー
GWA HA HA HA!
べろべろばー
BLEH BLEH BLEH!


NEXT CUSTOMER PLEASE!
SO SORRY FOR THE WAI--
AW, IT'S OUR TURN ALREADY?
OH, RIGHT!
WHY ARE THEY SO UNFAZED...?
THIS...
COULD BE USEFUL.

?!
WE'VE GOT A BUNCH OF SAMPLES FOR YOU TODAY, TOO.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

CAN 62 END

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

CAN 62.5

NOTHING BEATS A CAT'S PAW, INDEED.

*This is a variation of rock-paper-scissors where the winner gets to hit the loser on the head with a toy hammer. The loser can block the hit with a helmet if they are fast enough.

CAN 62.5 END

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

*Kakiage-don is a mix of vegetables and seafood, fried in batter and put over a bowl of rice.

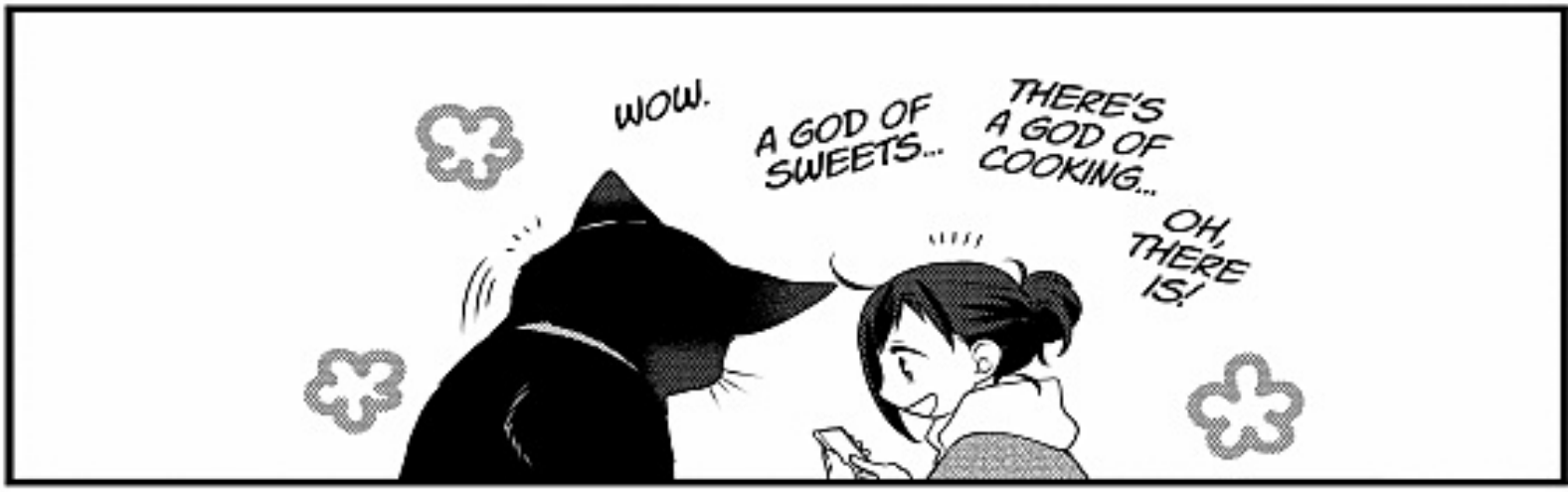
MEANWHILE, I MUST HAVE COMMITTED SOME GREAT SIN IN MY PAST LIFE.
UGH, SO GOOD!
KO FO FO
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN A SAINT IN A PAST LIFE OR SOMETHING.

?!
BUT NOW I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I'VE BEEN MAKING CUP NOODLES PROPERLY.
I USED TO SAY THAT CUP NOODLES WERE MY SPECIALTY, AS A JOKE.

HOW MUCH WATER DO YOU NEED?! HOW LONG DO YOU WAIT?! EACH CUP NOODLE IS DIFFERENT!
THERE'RE A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF SEASONING AND SOUP BASES! WHEN DO YOU PUT THEM IN?!
SPICY
RAMEN
TEMPURA SOBA
SOUP
???
I MEAN, AREN'T CUP NOODLES SURPRISINGLY TRICKY TO MAKE?

YOU CAN JUST EAT IT UNCOOKED!
EXCEPT THE NISSIN CHICKEN RAMEN. THAT'S FINE.

IS THERE A GOD OF HOUSEHOLD CHORES? I CAN'T REMEMBER.
MAYBE IT'S A SPIRITUAL THING. MAYBE I NEED TO GET EXORCISED OR GO VISIT A SHRINE OR SOMETHING.
FWOO
I FEEL LIKE IT'S NOT EVEN A PROBLEM WITH MY LACK OF TALENT AT THIS POINT.

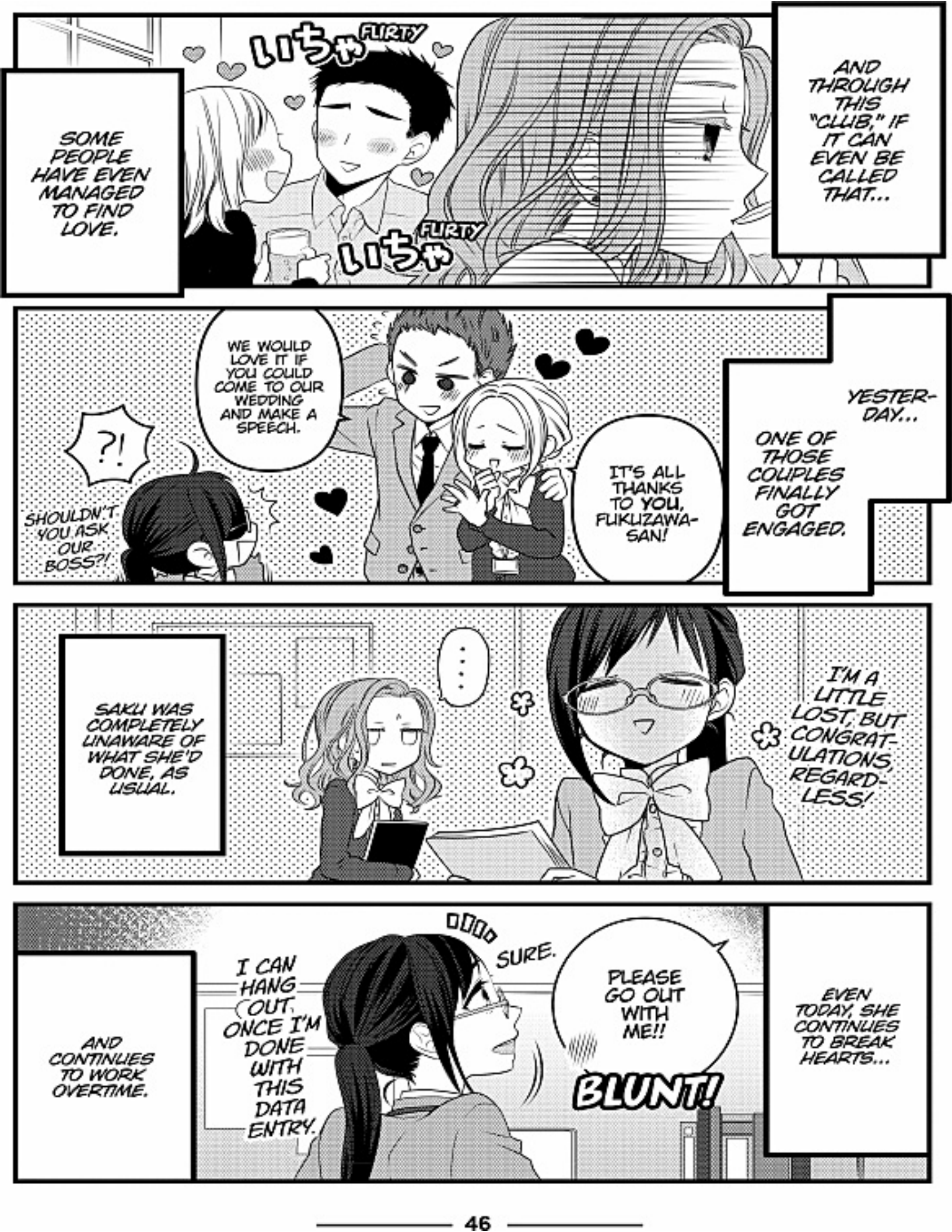

WOW.
A GOD OF SWEETS...
THERE'S A GOD OF COOKING...
OH, THERE IS!

?
GLANCE
ちら...
.....

IT LOOKS LIKE SHE WON'T BE BREAKING THAT CURSE ANYTIME SOON.
TEE HEE!
MAYBE I'D GET THE SAME RESULT QUICKER IF I JUST WORSHIPED YOU-!

CAN 63 END

SAKU-SENPAI IS PRETTY POPULAR...
OH, SURE.
I CAN HELP YOU WITH THIS.
OHMIGOSH, THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
WITH BOTH MEN AND WOMEN.
BUT SAKU-SEMPAI HERSELF SEEMS COMPLETELY UNCON-CERNED WITH LOVE OR ROMANCE...
FUKUZAWA-SAN, I WAS WONDERING IF WE COULD MAYBE GO OUT TO EAT SOME-TIME!?
AH, SURE!
I'LL ASK AROUND AND FIND A DAY THAT WORKS FOR EVERY-BODY!
UM, BUT...
UNWITTINGLY BREAKING THE HEART OF ANYONE WHO TRIES THEIR LUCK.
OSHIRO-SAN IS ALWAYS THERE TO POLITELY PICK UP THE PIECES.
DESPAIR
IT'S GONNA BE OKAY, BUDDY!
LET'S GO OUT AND DRINK UNTIL YOU FORGET, ALL RIGHT?
SHA
SHA
AND SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE...
CHEERS!!
WAAH!
WE HAPPENED TO FORM A BIT OF A CLUB.


SOME PEOPLE HAVE EVEN MANAGED TO FIND LOVE.
いちゃ FLIRTY
いちゃ FLIRTY
AND THROUGH THIS "CLUB," IF IT CAN EVEN BE CALLED THAT...
YESTERDAY...
ONE OF THOSE COUPLES FINALLY GOT ENGAGED.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, FUKUZAWA-SAN!
WE WOULD LOVE IT IF YOU COULD COME TO OUR WEDDING AND MAKE A SPEECH.
?!
SHOULDN'T YOU ASK OUR BOSS?!
SAKU WAS COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF WHAT SHE'D DONE, AS USUAL.
...
I'M A LITTLE LOST, BUT CONGRATULATIONS, REGARDLESS!
AND CONTINUES TO WORK OVERTIME.
I CAN HANG OUT, ONCE I'M DONE WITH THIS DATA ENTRY.
SURE.
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!!
BLUNT!
EVEN TODAY, SHE CONTINUES TO BREAK HEARTS...

I'LL HELP, TOO.

NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

IS THIS WHAT YOU'D CALL...

A JACK OF ALL TRADES, MASTER OF NONE?

I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT *WHETHER* YOU CAN HANDLE IT.

I'LL BE FINE! YOU KNOW THAT.

YEAH, AND I DON'T WANT *YOU* TO STAY LATE.

WHAT? NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I DON'T WANT YOU TO STAY LATE.

HMM?

KLAK

KLAK

YOU'LL NEVER FIND A HUS--

IT'S MORE THAT, IF ALL YOU DO IS FOCUS ON WORK...

NO, I DEFINITELY DON'T WANT THAT!

I MEAN...

YOU'LL WORK YOURSELF TO DEATH.

shock

BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT I'LL DEFINITELY CRY WHEN SHE GETS MARRIED.

I WANT SAKU TO FIND HAP-PINESS...

THANKS A BUNCH.
I DIDN'T MESS UP YOUR AFTER-WORK PLANS OR ANYTHING, DID I?
WE DID IT!
THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT HOPES...
THAT SHE NEVER REALIZES.

YOU CALL WORKING OVERTIME "A CHANGE OF PACE"?
AH HA HA!
NOT THAT PART...
SOMETIMES IT'S GOOD TO HAVE A CHANGE OF PACE.

I WAS HOPING WE COULD GO GRAB A DRINK. IT'S BEEN FOREVER.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I ACTUALLY FOUND A SAKE BAR THAT I THINK YOU'D LIKE, SENPAI.
SOUNDS GOOD!
GOOD IDEA! SINCE WE WORKED SO HARD, I THINK WE DESERVE A TREAT!
MY TREAT!

I'M GOING TO BE THE ONLY SINGLE PERSON THERE BEFORE LONG...
THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT MORE PEOPLE DATING AT WORK LATELY.
.....

CAN 64 END

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

WHITECAT
THERE'S THIS HOUSE WITH A GINORMOUS CAT.
'SUP. I'M A DELIVERY GUY.
THIS MIGHT BE SURPRISING, BUT IN MY DELIVERY AREA...
BUT, UH...
PLUS, THEY'RE CHILL AND POLITE. THEY'RE THE IDEAL CUSTOMER, REALLY.
AND THEY'RE ALWAYS READY TO SIGN FOR PACKAGES, SO EACH DELIVERY IS SUPER QUICK.
THEY ALMOST NEVER MISS A DELIVERY...
THEY'RE... A CAT.
.....
Sproing
I'VE EVER SEEN!
THE BIGGEST CAT...

OR MAYBE THE APARTMENT BELONGS TO SOME KINDA BESPOKE COSTUME MAKER.

Ohh, you mean the cat!

WE HAVE A FEW THEORIES, LIKE MAYBE IT'S A CELEBRITY IN A COSTUME.

THAT APARTMENT IS PRETTY FAMOUS AT MY COMPANY.

"THAT'S A REAL CAT, DUDE!"

ONE GUY EVEN THINKS...

SHAKE ふるふる SHAKE

IMPOSSIBLE!

THAT'S OBVIOUSLY

KER-CHAK ガチャ
WHO IS IT?
PEEK ひょっ
AAAAA HHHH-HHHH-HHH!!
CLATTER カタカタ
CRASH ヘニャ
ARE YOU OKAY?!
UM!
HUH?!
TREMBLE カタ
TREMBLE カタ
WAIT, THAT'S NORMAL!
A HUMAN?!
カタ TREMBLE

YOU HAVE A PACKAGE!!
O-OH, IT'S OKAY.
BWSH
WHITECAT
AH!
I-I'M SO SORRY!
THAT WAS INCREDIBLY RUDE OF ME!!
YES, OF COURSE!!
I HAVE MY OWN PEN HERE...
RIGHT, UM...
IS IT OKAY IF I JUST SIGN FOR IT?
SURE.
CAT
SIGN HERE. PLEASE.
POP
PHEW!
EH?
THIS LADY...
IS THE PERSON INSIDE THE CAT COSTUME?!

SO DOES THAT MEAN THE COSTUME MAKER THEORY IS THE CORRECT ONE?!
カチッ
CLICK
SHE'S DEFINITELY PRETTY, BUT I DON'T THINK SHE'S A CELEBRITY.

WOULD BE SO CUTE!
UM...?
WHOA...
ぽわ〜〜
BUT MAN, I DIDN'T THINK THE PERSON IN THAT GIANT CAT COSTUME...

OKAY!
THANKS A BUNCH!
FWIP
WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUED PATRON-AGE!!
TH-THANK YOU!!

???
HM-HUM-!
ふんふーん
NOW THAT I KNOW WHO'S UNDER THERE I'M NOT SCARED ANYMORE!!

PEEK
ひょこ
THANKS FOR CLEANING THE TUB!
WHEW.
OH, YUKICHI.
IT'S FROM MOM.
IT JUST ARRIVED.
I BET IT'S ALL CAT FOOD AGAIN.
HM? OH, THIS?
I CAN AT LEAST SIGN FOR PACKAGES! I'M NOT THAT INCOMPE-TENT!!
ALTHOUGH I COULDN'T FIND THE STAMP!!
...?!

I'M NEVER THE ONE WHO GETS THE PACKAGE, SO I DIDN'T KNOW.
HA HA.
OHHH, SO THAT'S WHERE IT IS!
?
OH, WAIT.
HE WAS FREAKED OUT BECAUSE A CAT USUALLY SIGNS FOR THE PACKAGES!
SLOW ON THE UPTAKE.
OHHH.
♪
♬
PEEL
IT MAKES SENSE THAT THE DELIVERY GUY WOULD BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD IF A HUMAN ANSWERED THE DOOR INSTEAD.
IT WAS ALL CAT FOOD.
Momozun

CAN 65 END

CONVERTED INTO BIG MAC PATTIES, PATTY-CHAN'S GINORMOUS BODY WOULD MAKE...

COWABUNGA!!

A HOLSTEIN OVER 3 METERS TALL

OUR NEXT SUPER-SIZED ANIMAL IS...

A HOLSTEIN OVER THREE METERS TALL! HER NAME IS PATTY!

BUT HOLD ON, THAT'S NOT EVEN THE CRAZIEST BIT!

へ〜 WOW...

IT'S CRAZY HOW MANY GIANT ANIMALS ARE OUT THERE.

ACCORDING TO HER VETERINARIAN, THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT SHE MAY CONTINUE TO GROW FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE!

APPARENTLY, PATTY-CHAN IS STILL GROWING!

.....?!

ARE YOU TELLING ME IT'S POSSIBLE THAT YOU'RE NOT DONE GROWING YET???
HOLD ON, CATS STOP GROWING ONCE THEY'RE A YEAR OLD, RIGHT?

IT'S JUST HARD TO NOTICE BECAUSE I SEE YOU EVERY DAY!
AHHH! NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU DO SEEM BIGGER THAN YOU WERE LAST YEAR!

OH NO! IF YOU GET ANY BIGGER THAN THIS, THE MOMENT YOU SET FOOT OUTSIDE...!
WHAT'S THE WEIGHT CAPACITY OF OUR FLOOR AGAIN?!
HOW BIG ARE YOU GOING TO BE?!
BIG ENOUGH TO FILL THIS ROOM?!
!?

BATA
BATA
BATA
SHOOT EM DOWN!!
SKREEE
SHUDDER

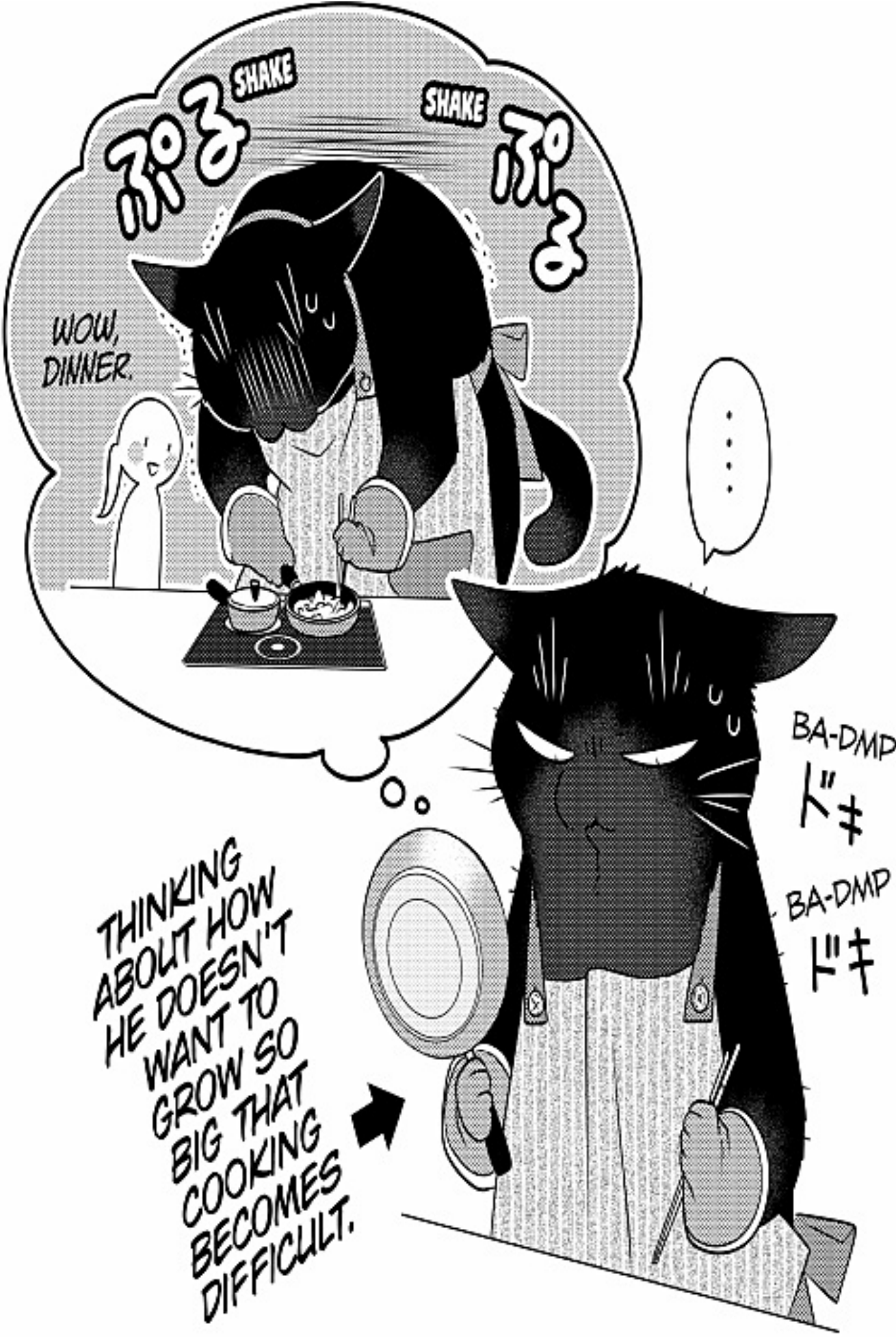
ALL RIGHTY, YUKICHI-KUN!
MAKE SURE YOUR BACK IS PRESSED FIRMLY UP AGAINST THE WALL.
...
YOU'RE NOT ON YOUR TIPPY-TOES TO MAKE YOURSELF TALLER, ARE YOU?
AH, RIGHT, CATS NATURALLY STAND ON THEIR TOES.
THE HEEL
SORRY!!
.....?
ACTUALLY, IS THIS THE PROPER WAY TO MEASURE A CAT?
'CAUSE CATS ARE PRETTY FLEXIBLE AND STRETCHY. IS THIS REALLY ACCURATE?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD ACTUALLY STAND UP AS TALL AS POSSIBLE.
.....
YEAH, WHY DON'T YOU TRY THA--
SNAP!

SHE GOOGLED IT.
A CAT'S SIZE = THE LENGTH FROM THE CHEST TO THE HIND QUARTERS.
THIS IS HOW THEY SAID YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO MEASURE A CAT!
OKAY, NOW WE JUST HAVE TO MEASURE YOU EACH MONTH...
AND THEN WE'LL KNOW WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE STILL GROWING.

AND IF IT TURNS OUT...
YOU ARE STILL GROWING...
GULP
THEN ONCE YOU'RE TOO BIG TO LIVE IN THIS APARTMENT...

WE'LL HAVE TO...
WAH!

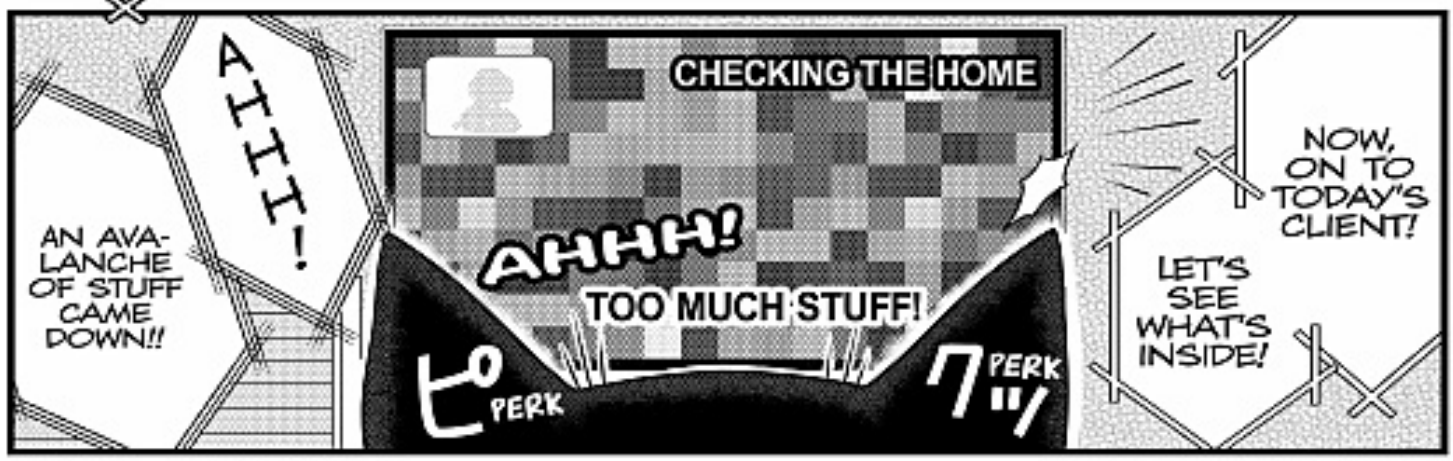
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE OUT A FIFTY-YEAR MORTGAGE FOR THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF MONEY THEY'LL GIVE US...
AND BUY THE BIGGEST HOUSE WE CAN!!
AND I'LL GET CREDIT LIFE INSUR-ANCE!
?!


SHAKE
SHAKE
WOW, DINNER.
BA-DMP
BA-DMP
THINKING ABOUT HOW HE DOESN'T WANT TO GROW SO BIG THAT COOKING BECOMES DIFFICULT.

CAN 66 END

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

COME ALONG WITH US AS WE REVITALIZE PEOPLE'S HOMES THROUGH SPRING CLEANING AND DECLUTTERING!
TODAY'S THE DAY TO TURN YOUR LIFE AROUND!
CRUNCH
HEY, YOU! FEELING BLUE? STUCK IN A RUT?
CRUNCH


AIII!
AN AVALANCHE OF STUFF CAME DOWN!!
CHECKING THE HOME
AHHH!
TOO MUCH STUFF!
PERK
PERK
NOW, ON TO TODAY'S CLIENT!
LET'S SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

FIRST UP IS DECLUTTERING! WE'RE GOING TO THROW EVERYTHING OUT!
THEN, A DEEP CLEAN OF THE HOUSE!!
LEAN
EEEEK!
THAT'S NOT A GOOD SIGN! I'M SENSING TODAY'S GOING TO BE A DIFFICULT CASE!

!!
RUSTLE
YUCK!
LOOK AT THAT BUILD-UP OF LIME-SCALE!!
A COCKROACH !!
OIL STAINS !!
RUSTLE

GLANCE
きょろっ
Hum!
Hum!
きょろっ
GLANCE
……
……
SCRAPE
コリリ…
コリリ…
SCRAPE
※ CLEANING BETWEEN THE FLOORBOARDS.
はぁ
SIIIGH!
パタン…
FWUMP

I KNOW HER.
HER HAIR IS BACK TO HER ORIGINAL COLOR, BUT THAT'S...
CHATTER
ザ
ザ
CHATTER
NISHINA-SA--
WHAT?
TWIST
くるっ
FWISH
ズッ…
NO, NO, IT'S ME!
I KNOW, I LOOK LIKE CRAP.
SORRY. WRONG PERSON.

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
YEAH, I'M FINE.
SWAY ふら
SWAY ふら
IT'S JUST THAT I'VE HAD THAT GIG, PLUS WORK, PLUS MANDATORY PARTIES, PLUS A REPORT DUE ALL AT THE SAME TIME...
THAT'S AWFUL!

I'M JUST A BIT SLEEP-DEPRIVED.
Sigh...
AND A BIT ANEMIC.
BOTH OF THOSE ARE BAD ENOUGH BY THEM-SELVES!

YEAH, I KNOW. I'LL BE CAREFUL.
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT.
Y-YOU TOO.

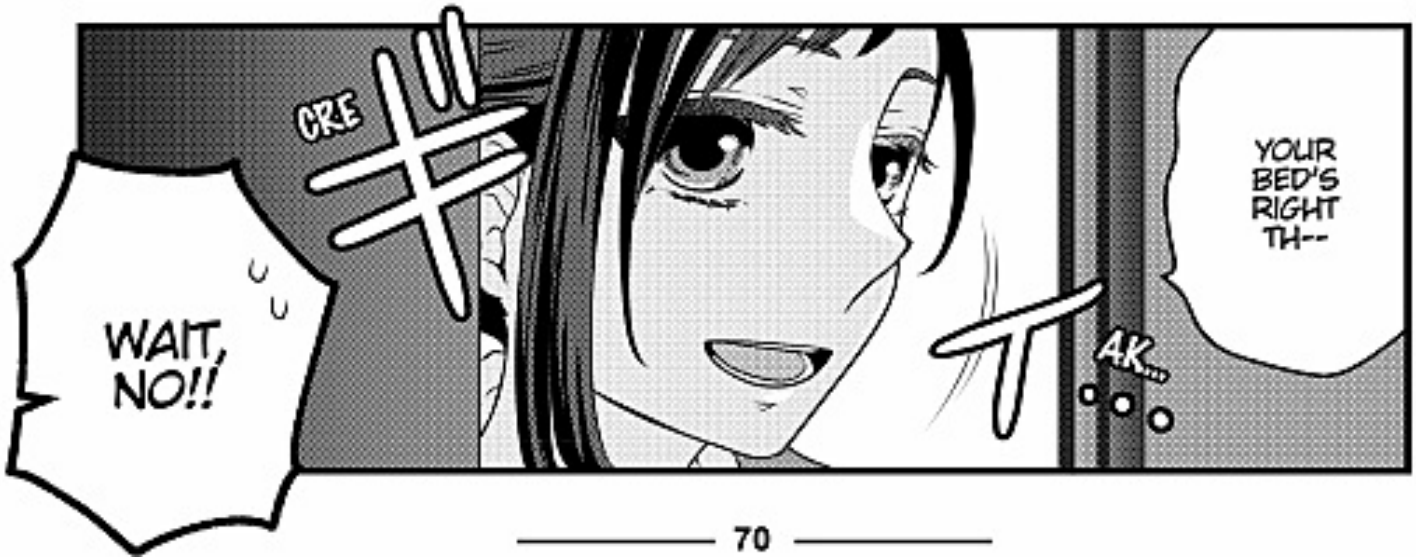
CRASH

GOT IT!
SORRY ABOUT THIS!
NISHINA-SAN, WHERE DO YOU LIVE?!
.....?
UM, MY APARTMENT'S ACROSS FROM THE KUROYOSHI CLINIC.
YEAH.
HUH?!
fwoosh
THD
UH?!
WHAAA?!
?!

IT'S THIS ONE, RIGHT?
CAN YOU STAND FOR A BIT WHILE I OPEN THE DOOR?
はぁ Huff!
はぁ Huff!
'KAY...

SWAY ぐらぁ
SWAY ぐらぁ
MSML
WE'RE ALMOST AT THE GOAL! HANG IN THERE!

GOAL...?
Gasp! はっ
OH GOD. I HAVE NO GOALS...
KER-CHAK ガチャッ
OH COME ON, YOU'RE FINE.
LOOK, THE DOOR'S OPEN.


YOUR BED'S RIGHT TH--
AK...
CRE
WAIT, NO!!

WHERE IS...
THE BED...?

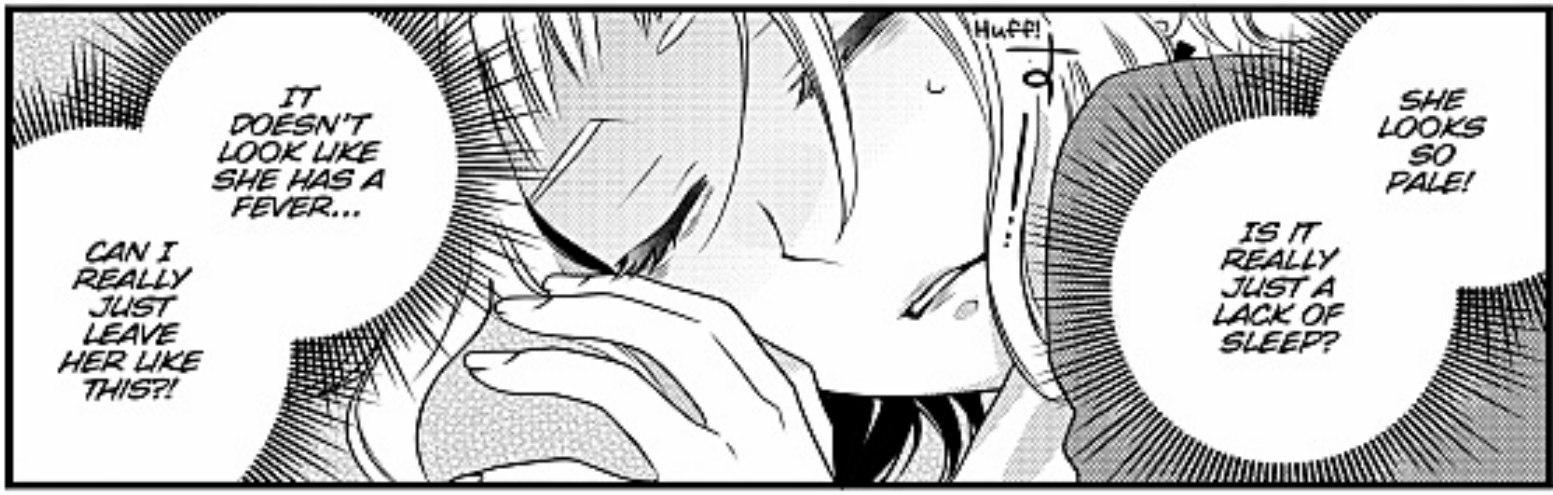
WAIT, HOLD ON! WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO SLEEP?
BOW
ペコ
MSML
THANK YOU FOR TAKING ME HOME! GOOD NIGHT!
I'M SO SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE THIS!!

HERE?!
CLUTTER
ごちゃあ
UM. AROUND HERE...? I GUESS?

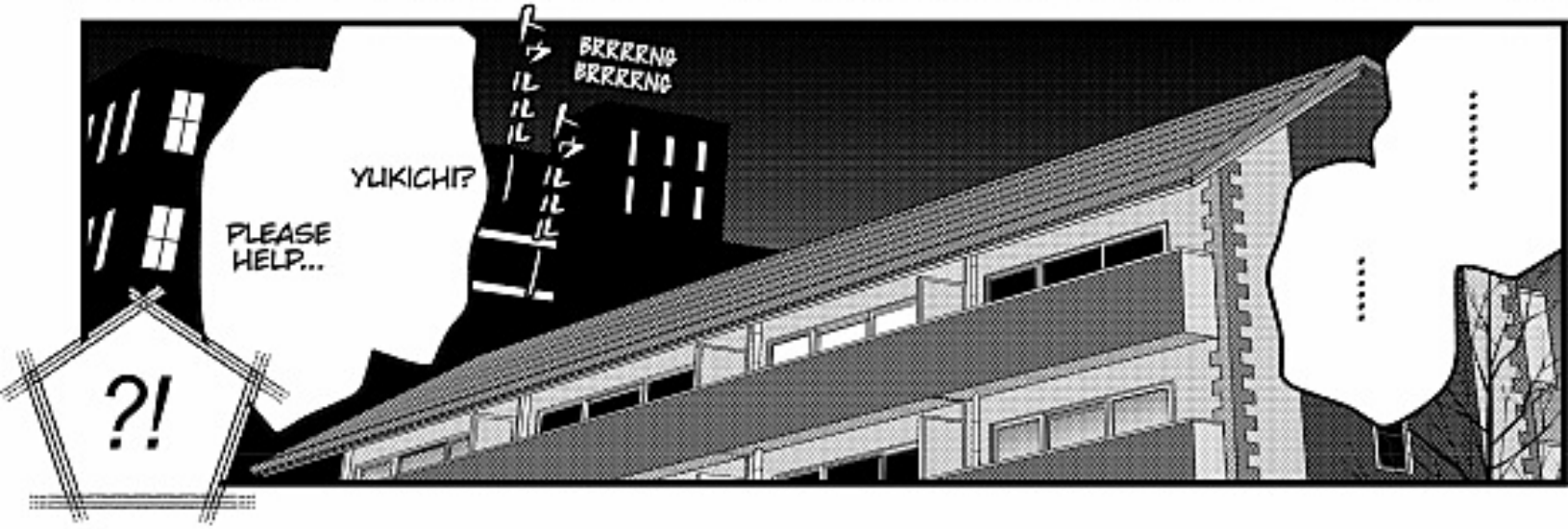
YOU SHOULDN'T BE USED TO THIS!!
ガサ
RUSTLE
ALTHOUGH I GUESS IT GOT THIS BAD BECAUSE I'M NOT USED TO LIVING BY MYSELF...
IT'S FINE. I'M USED TO IT.

WHY DOES IT SOUND LIKE YOU'RE SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE?
FIRST YOU'LL LEAVE A BLANKET OR A PILLOW BY THE DOOR. THEN YOU'LL START TO THINK ABOUT BUYING AN ELECTRIC BLANKET BECAUSE IT'S COLD. AND——
ONE DAY YOU'LL FIND THAT THE DOORWAY HAS BASICALLY BECOME YOUR BED!!
YOU HAVE TO SHAPE UP! IT'S A SLIPPERY SLOPE FROM HERE.

DON'T FALL ASLEEP NOW!!
SLUMP!
がく
I OWE YOU...
I'LL BE FINE, I SWEAR.
SORRY ABOUT THIS.


IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE HAS A FEVER...
CAN I REALLY JUST LEAVE HER LIKE THIS?!
Huff!
SHE LOOKS SO PALE!
IS IT REALLY JUST A LACK OF SLEEP?

I CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT LOCKING THE DOOR!!
AH-HA!
ばっ
AH!
THE KEY!


YUKICHI?
PLEASE HELP...
トゥルルル
BRRRRNG BRRRRNG
トゥルルル
?!

I NEED TO DIG OUT HER FUTON, FIRST...
IT FELT LIKE I'D GONE BACK IN TIME.
HM? WHAT'S THAT SOUND? ARE YOU PURRING RIGHT NOW?!
WHY ?!
PURRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR...
nononono...

CAN 67 END

You finally bought a guitar?!
Whoa, you look so cool!
Yuri, check this out!
じゃん
TA-DA!
CAN 68
AH HA HA! PLAY SOME-THING FOR ME!
Hmph!
I SPENT ALL MY NEW YEAR'S MONEY ON IT.
Hey, Nishina!
I heard you play an instrument.
Again? You're always playing that thing. Have you finished your homework yet?!
STRM
I'll do it once I finish this song.

I'll send you the songs, if you want to give them a listen!

SHE'S REALLY GOOD!

Aya's our song-writer!

Seriously?! Actually, I've been writing--

We were thinking about starting a band once entrance exams are over.

YOU INTER-ESTED?

Can you play bass?!

BUT YOU PLAY THE DRUMS!

I WANNA DO VOCALS!!

LET ME GET YOUR NUMBER.

BLUSH...

O-oh, okay.

.....

CLACK

カタ

It *is* really good.

You'll play bass in our band?! Wow, thank you so much, Nishina-san!!

I'll probably end up sucking, though.

THWUMP

SQUEEZE...

C'mon, man!

Sorry about this guy, Nishina. He can be pretty rude sometimes.

You don't need to be good or anything, we just need someone on bass.

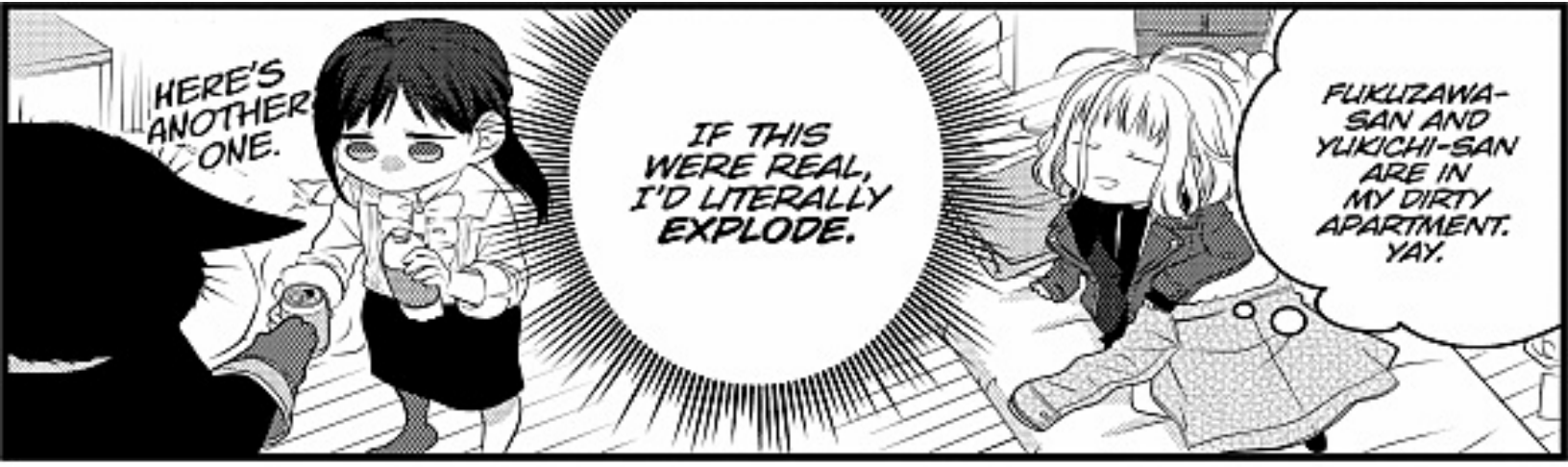
Aya's a genius, so it's okay if you suck!

BLINK

IT'S COOL.

IT'S THE TRUTH, SO...

A DREAM ABOUT SCHOOL?
I HAVEN'T HAD A DREAM IN SO LONG...
SHIFT
HM? A FUTON?
AH!
PSHH
NISHINA-SAN!
SORRY WE DIDN'T GET YOUR PERMISSION BEFORE CLEANING UP!
CHAK
AND SORRY FOR INVITING YUKICHI OVER WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION, TOO!
ARE YOU ALLOWED TO HAVE ANIMALS IN YOUR APARTMENT?!
OH, I'M STILL DREAMING.
OH NO, YOU'RE TOTALLY WELCOME. MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
REALLY?! OH, THANK GOD!
SPACED OUT


HERE'S ANOTHER ONE.
IF THIS WERE REAL, I'D LITERALLY EXPLODE.
FUKUZAWA-SAN AND YUKICHI-SAN ARE IN MY DIRTY APARTMENT. YAY.

AT LEAST UNTIL WE FIND YOU A PILLOW AND BLANKET!
くるっ
SPIN
UM, IS IT OKAY IF WE CLEAN UP A BIT MORE?

I'LL MAKE SURE NOT TO TOUCH ANY OF YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS.
LIKE YOUR CLOTHES!
OH, UM...
I KNOW I'M STICKING MY NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG, BUT...
"DREAM"?
WHAT A NICE DREAM...
OHH...
YOU'D DO THAT FOR ME?

GO, YUKICHI!
しゅっ
WHOOSH
OKAY, WE GOT PERMISSION!
YAAAY!
OKAY, THANKS!

I MANAGED TO PASS OUT IN A FLASH.
EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN HAVING A HARD TIME FALLING ASLEEP LATELY...
FWMP
Sigh.
はぁ
SO SLEEPY...
HOW COME I'M SO DROWSY WHEN THIS IS A DREAM?

SO WHY...
IT'S WEIRD. I USUALLY DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE WHEN OTHER PEOPLE ARE AROUND.
I WONDER HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE I LAST SLEPT ON A FUTON.
A FEW DAYS, MAYBE?

...
DO I FEEL SO RELAXED?
Zzz...
ね——

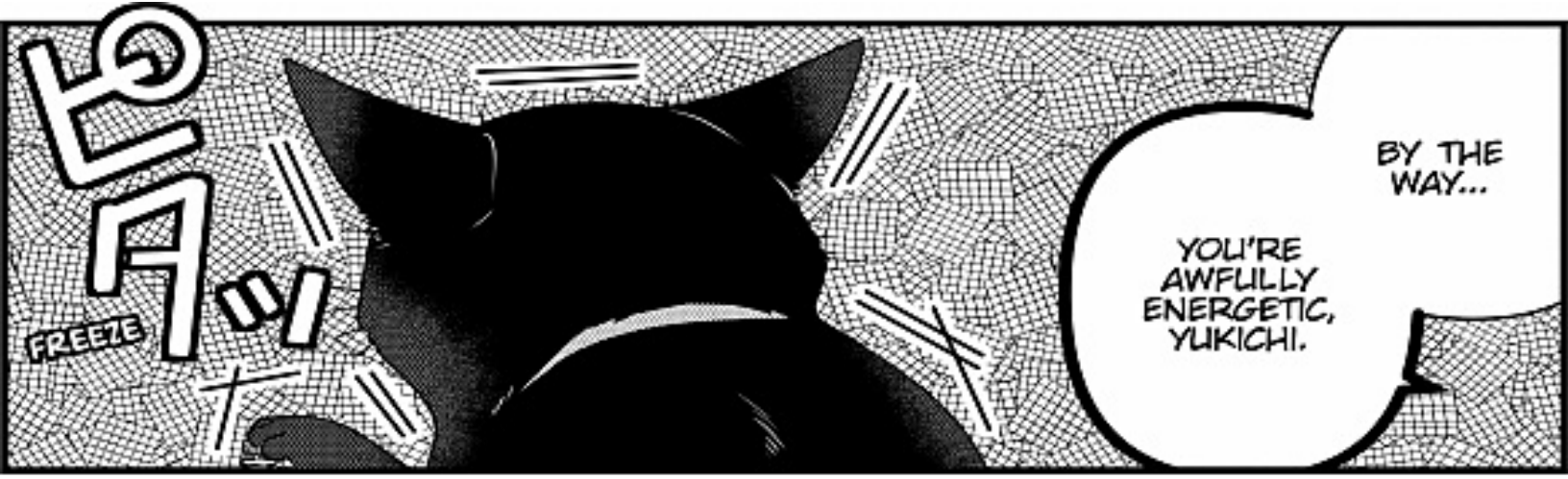
YOU'RE BENCHING ME ALREADY?!
POMF
WHAT SHOULD I DO NE--
ALL RIGHT! NOW LET'S MAKE SURE TO NOT WAKE HER UP!

RAWR!
SORRY! OUR OLD APARTMENT WAS WAY WORSE!
WHEW...
IT KINDA TAKES ME BACK.
MAN, THIS PLACE REALLY REMINDS ME OF OUR APARTMENT BACK IN THE DAY.

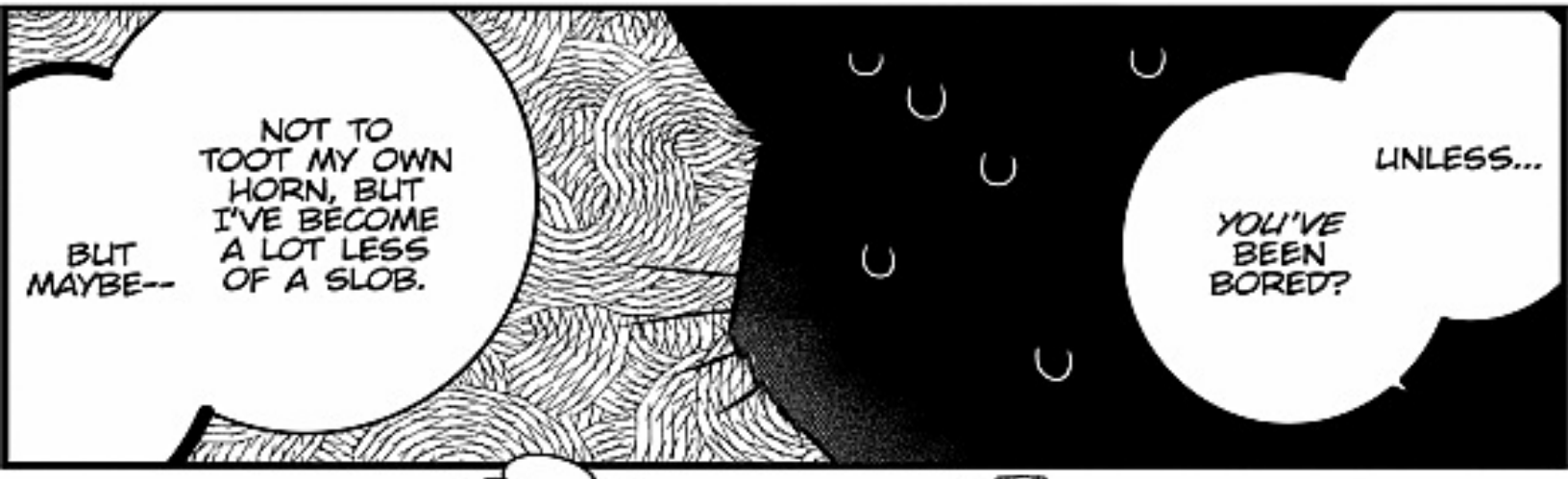
AND I KNOW I'M STICKING MY NOSE IN SOMEONE ELSE'S BUSINESS...
I COULDN'T JUST LEAVE HER.
BUT SHE DOES REMIND ME OF MY FORMER SELF.

I THINK THAT'S TRUE, IN SOME SENSE.
BUT THEY SAY THAT A CLUTTERED DESK IS A CLUTTERED MIND.

COME ON, YOU COULD AT LEAST LISTEN TO ME WHEN I'M TALKING! I'M BORED OUT OF MY MIND, HERE!
WOOSH
WOOSH
ALTHOUGH, JUST CLEANING UP THE DESK ISN'T GOING TO SOLVE THE REAL PROBLEM...

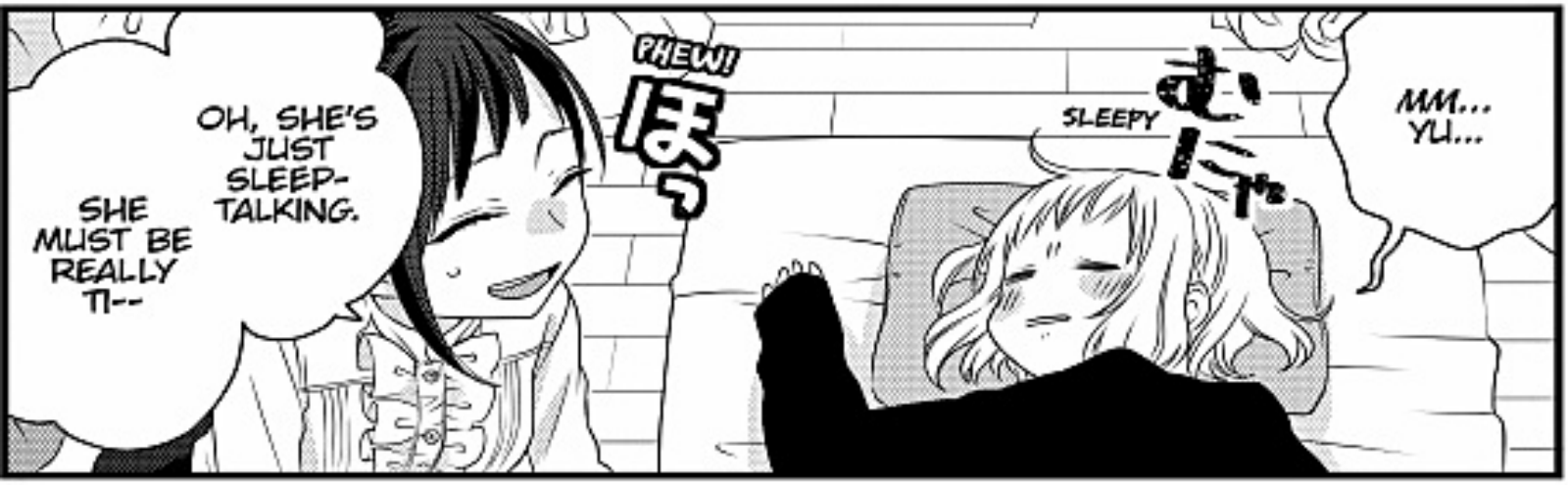

FREEZE
BY THE WAY...
YOU'RE AWFULLY ENERGETIC, YUKICHI.

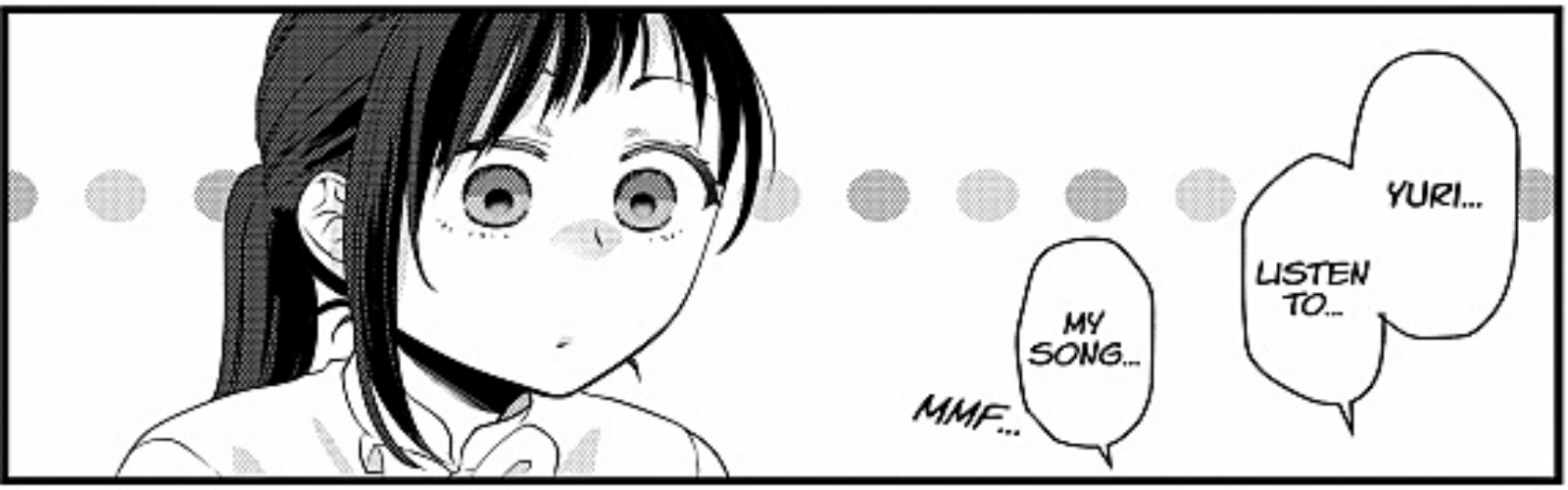
BUT I THOUGHT THERE'D AT LEAST BE A "TSK!" OR A LONG SIGH...
STARE
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE MORE BUMMED ABOUT THIS.
I MEAN, I'M GRATEFUL YOU CAME TO HELP AND ALL...

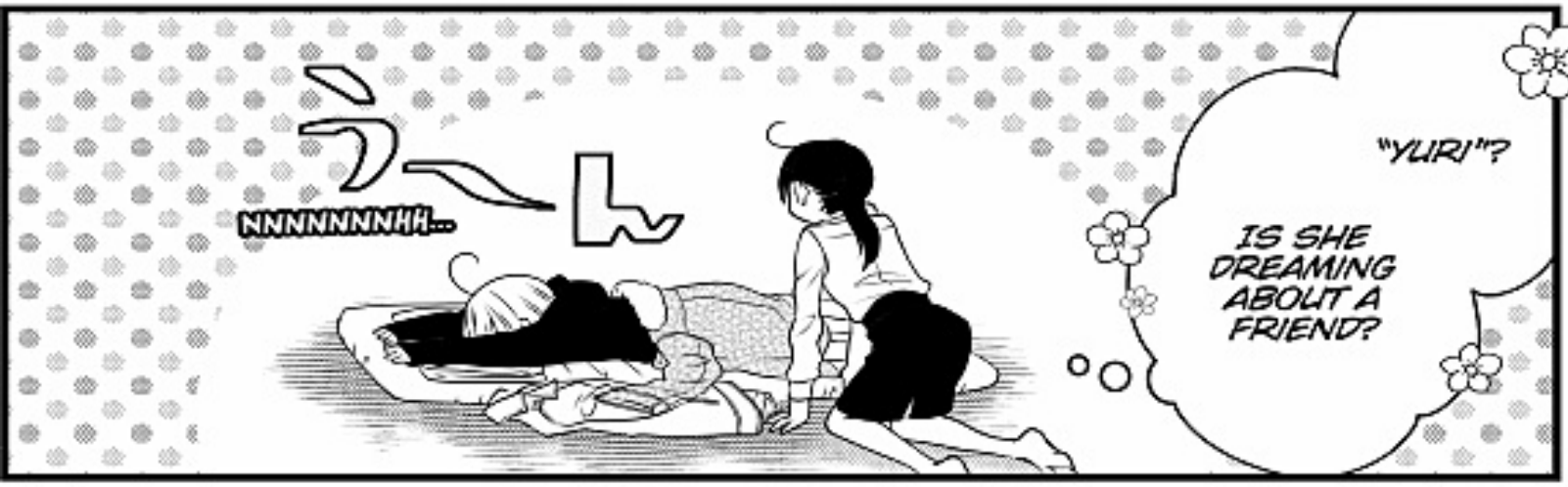

BUT MAYBE--
NOT TO TOOT MY OWN HORN, BUT I'VE BECOME A LOT LESS OF A SLOB.
UNLESS...
YOU'VE BEEN BORED?

NO WAY! YOU MADE AND BROUGHT FOOD?!
YOU'RE A LEGEND!
I WAS STARVING!
Doubts
POOF
WHAM

CRAP! I WAS TOO LOUD!
SNUGGLE
MMH.


OH, SHE'S JUST SLEEP-TALKING.
SHE MUST BE REALLY TI--
PHEW!
SLEEPY
MM... YU...


YURI...
LISTEN TO...
MY SONG...
MMF...


うーん
NNNNNNNHH...
"YURI"?
IS SHE DREAMING ABOUT A FRIEND?

Hi, Yuri.
No. This is a bass guitar.
WHOA!
AUNTIE TOLD ME!
Rio! Long time no see. ♡
I heard you're in a band now!! Oh wow, is that a new guitar?
Got any new songs?
You know I'm your biggest fan!
Ah ha! Umm...
I've been swamped with homework and tests and stuff...
I guess?
OH, CRAP!
Sorry, I'm gonna be late for practice!
Gotta go, bye!
カタッ
RATTLE
Ri--

I'LL NEVER BE LIKE HER.

I...

I NEVER LIKED BEING IN THE SPOTLIGHT ANYWAY.

I THOUGHT I WAS FINE WITH THE WAY THINGS WERE.

EVEN IF I COULDN'T WRITE MY OWN SONGS...

AS LONG AS I COULD PLAY AN INSTRUMENT...

I'D BE HAPPY.

Do you *really* think you can write better songs than Aya?
はぁ〜っ
SIIIGH!
What are you so stressed out about?!
Look, people like you and me are just average, mediocre randos.
All we can do is follow geniuses like Aya and help make *their* dreams come true!
I never said that.
And who said I was stressed out?
I know...!
THWAM

BRRRNG
BRRRNG
HELLO...
OH!
NISHINA? HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
YOU LOOKED AS PALE AS A GHOST WHEN YOU GOT OFF YESTERDAY.
CHIRP
CHIRP
MANAGER...
HMM?
ARE YOU PLANNING TO COME IN TOMOR-ROW?
IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL, LET ME KNOW SO I CAN FIND SOMEONE TO COV--
WHILE I WAS SLEEPING, CAT-SAN WAS CLEANING MY APART-MENT...
WOW, MUST BE NICE! WANT TO TRADE PLACES?!
HAVE YOU BEEN HAVING NIGHTMARES?
AM I STILL DREAM-ING...?
WAIT, DON'T HANG UP--!
BEEP
GO BACK TO YOUR SWEET DREAMS!
ANYWAY, GO AHEAD AND TAKE TOMOR-ROW OFF!

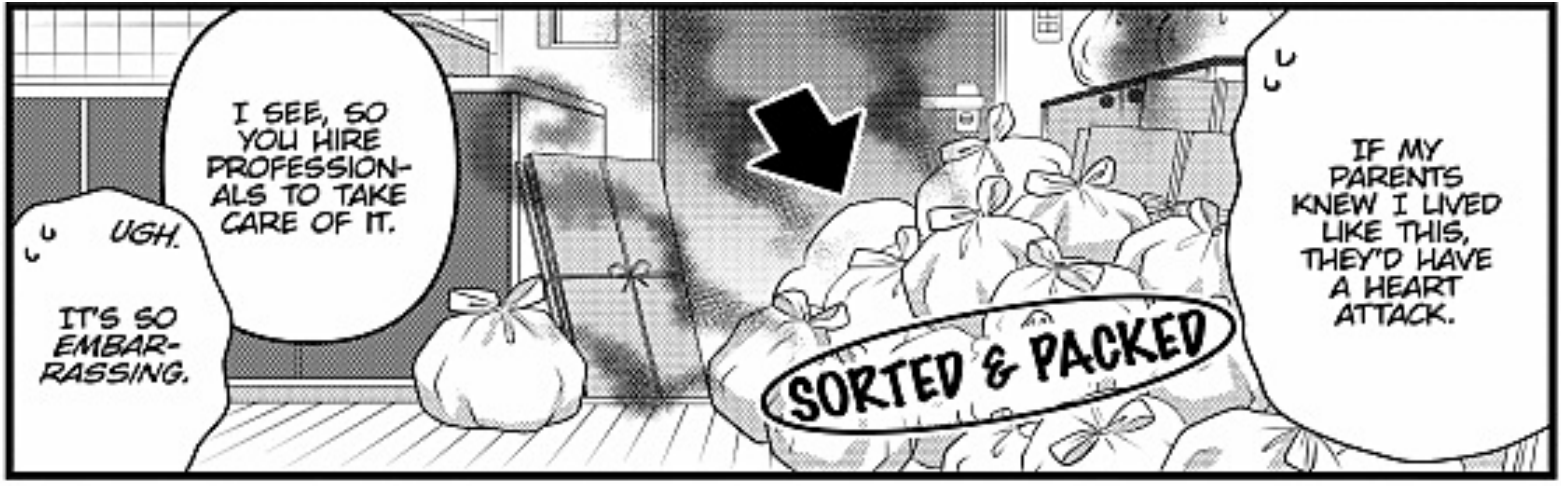
Zzz...
Zzz...
.....
.....
.....
WAIT! DON'T HANG UP!!
H...
HELLO, MANAGER?!
UM...! I'M DEFINITELY STILL DREAMING!

CAN 68 END

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

I AM...
...
TRULY...
TRULY SORRY FOR THIS!!
TUNK
ゴッ!!
IT'S OKAY, NISHINA-SAN! PLEASE LIFT YOUR HEAD!!

THE CAT WHO OVER-STEP-PED.
...
HONESTLY, I THINK WE PROBABLY OVER-STEPPED!
I MEAN IT! WE DID ALL THIS WITHOUT CONSULT-ING YOU, SO...!
SHFF
すっ...
10000
OH GOSH, THAT'S SO MUCH MONEY!
WILL THIS BE ENOUGH TO COVER EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR ME...?
ACTUALLY...
NO NO NO NO!!
YOU MUST NEED THAT FOR RENT OR TUITION OR SOME-THING RIGHT?!
TRASH BUSTERS
KEEP IT.
WE'LL CLEAN ANY ROOM, NO MATTER HOW DIRTY!
I'VE BEEN SAVING UP THIS MONEY TO HIRE A CLEANING SERVICE.


I SEE, SO YOU HIRE PROFESSIONALS TO TAKE CARE OF IT.
UGH.
IT'S SO EMBARRASSING.
SORTED & PACKED
IF MY PARENTS KNEW I LIVED LIKE THIS, THEY'D HAVE A HEART ATTACK.

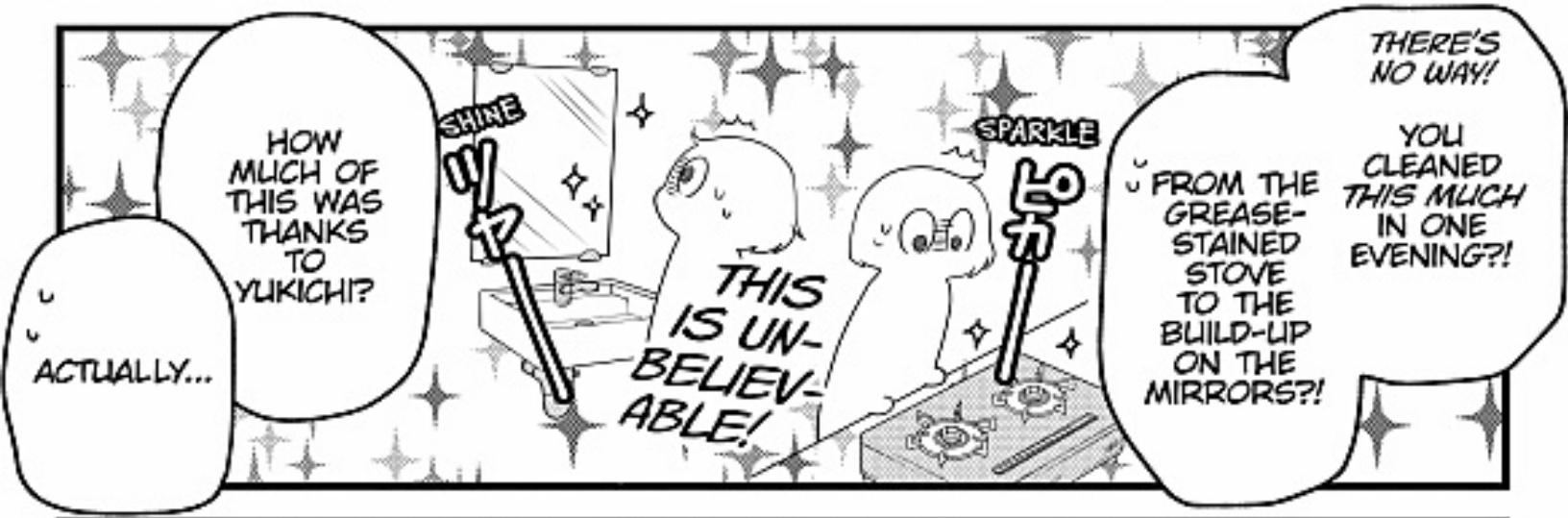
HOW IS THAT IMPRESSIVE?!
NOT AT ALL!
I ACTUALLY THINK IT'S IMPRESSIVE!

EVEN WHEN YOU'VE BEEN SO EXHAUSTED AND ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE.
I MEAN, YOU RECOGNIZED THAT THERE WAS A PROBLEM AND YOU HAD A PLAN TO DEAL WITH IT.

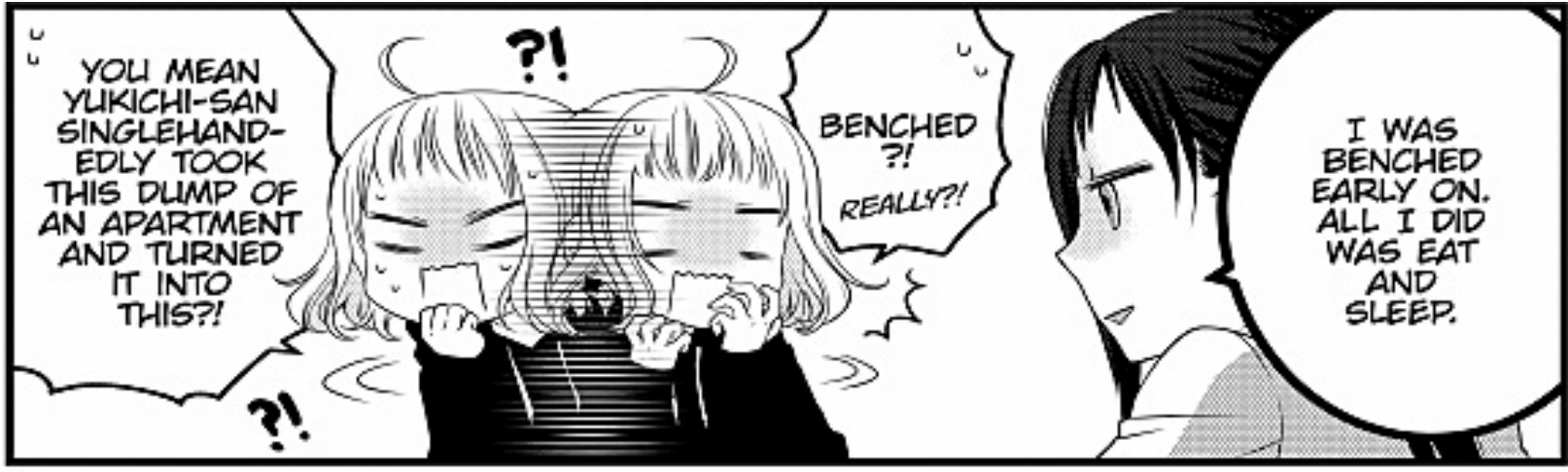
THAT'S AMAZING!

AH!
ぐぅー
GRUMBLE

WE HAD A PROPER MEAL LAST NIGHT.
AND WE SLEPT PLENTY.
WAIT!
DID YOU EVEN SLEEP ENOUGH ??!
DID YOU TWO SKIP DINNER LAST NIGHT?!


ACTUALLY...
HOW MUCH OF THIS WAS THANKS TO YUKICHI?
SHINE
THIS IS UN-BELIEV-ABLE!
SPARKLE
FROM THE GREASE-STAINED STOVE TO THE BUILD-UP ON THE MIRRORS?!
THERE'S NO WAY!
YOU CLEANED THIS MUCH IN ONE EVENING?!

WHAT?
THAT WAS ALL YUKICHI.

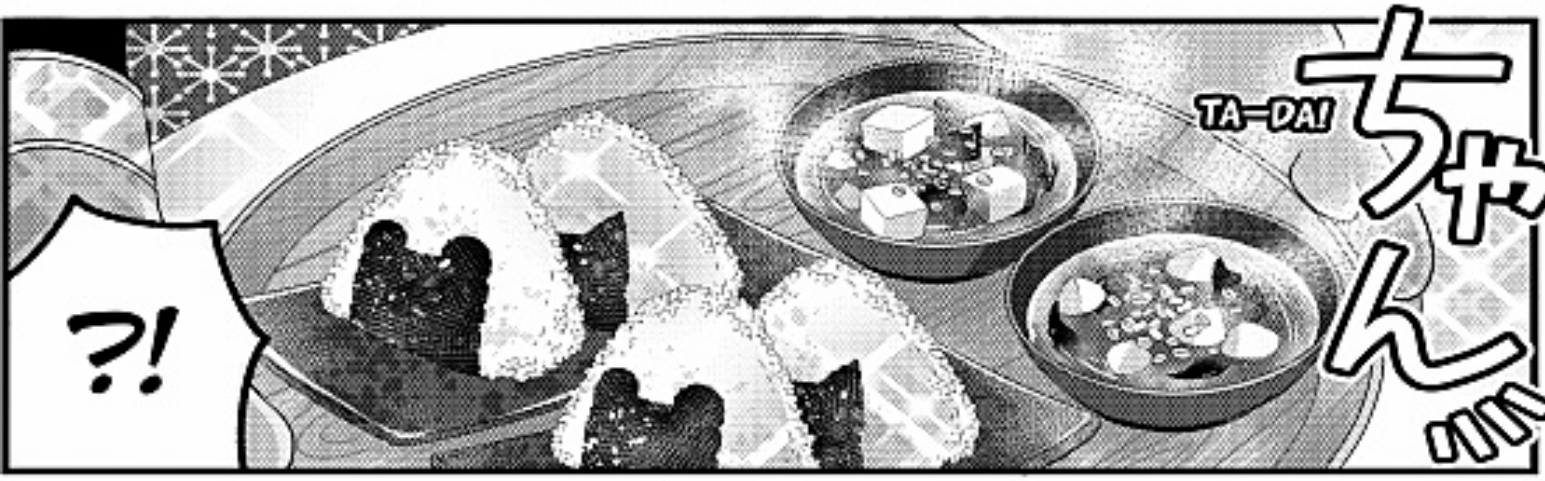

YOU MEAN YUKICHI-SAN SINGLEHANDEDLY TOOK THIS DUMP OF AN APARTMENT AND TURNED IT INTO THIS?!
?!
?!
BENCHED ?!
REALLY?!
I WAS BENCHED EARLY ON. ALL I DID WAS EAT AND SLEEP.

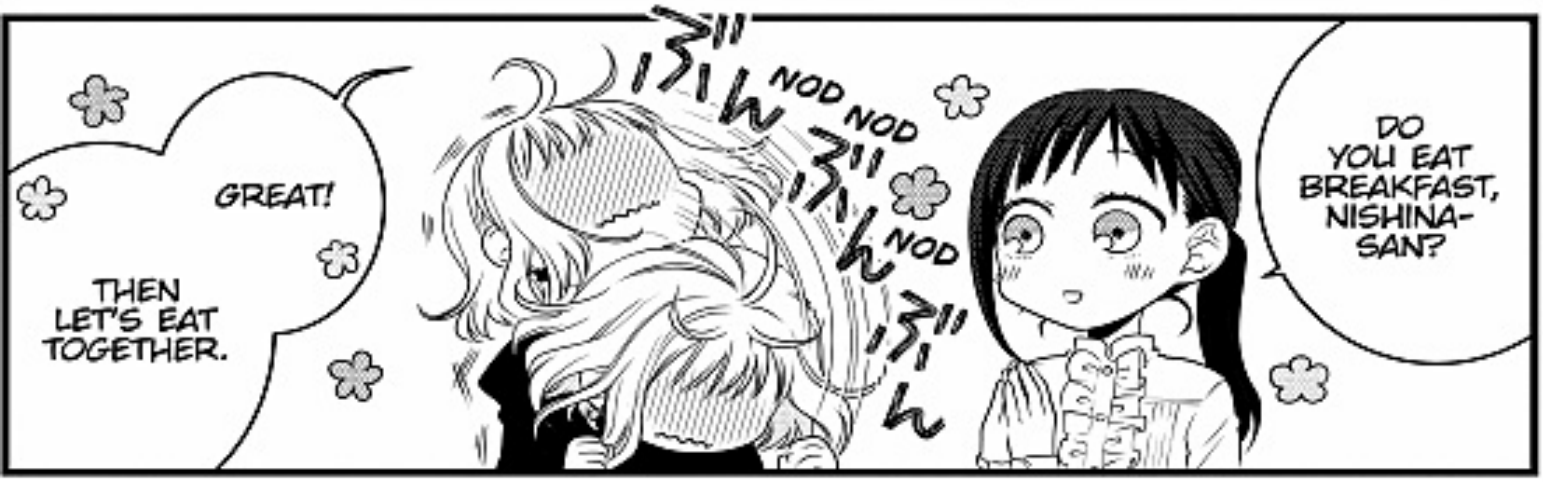
IS HE A PROFESSIONAL CLEANER OR SOMETHING?!
...
HEH HEH HEH.
AN APARTMENT LIKE THIS IS MERE CHILD'S PLAY FOR YUKICHI.

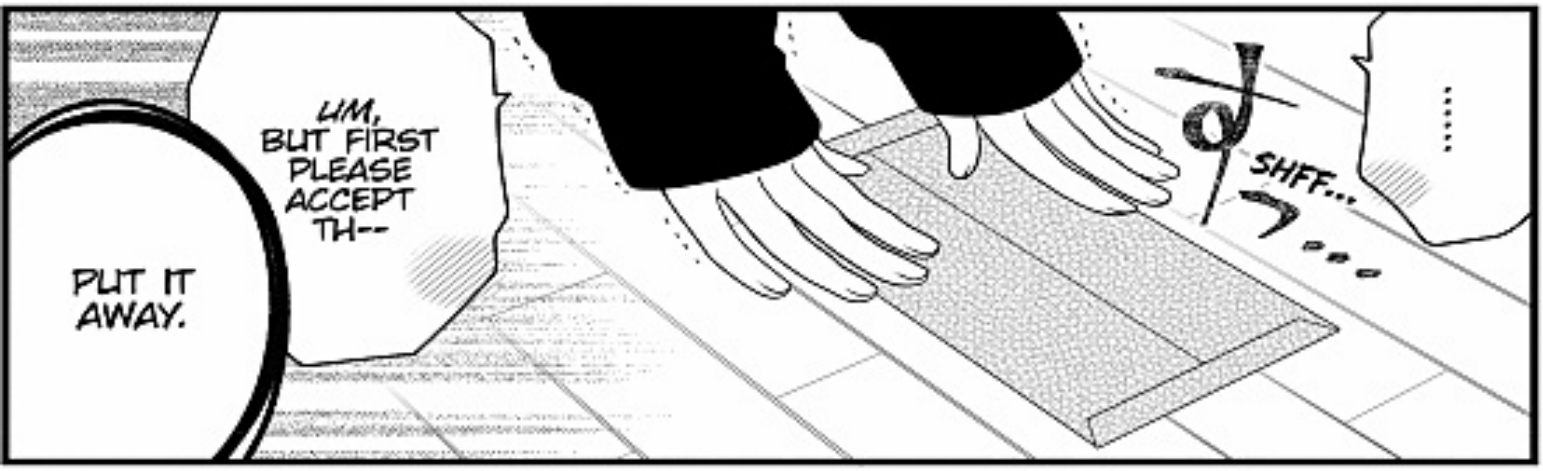
SHUFFLE...
スススッ...
YUKICHI-SAN...
ER...
?
UM...
I HAVE NO CLUE HOW YOU MANAGED IT, BUT...
YOU REALLY HELPED ME OUT.

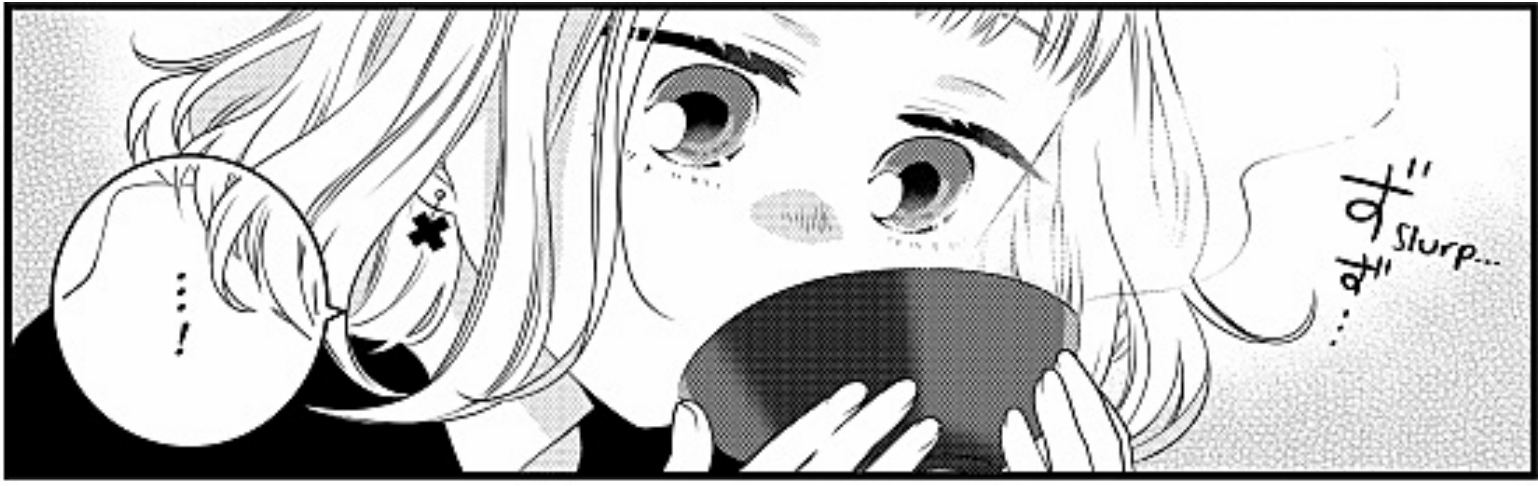
?!
CAN I PLEASE CALL YOU MASTER YUKICHI?!

Heh.
BY THE WAY, WHAT SMELLS SO GOOD? IT SMELLS LIKE...MISO AND WHITE RICE.


TA-DA! ちゃん
?!

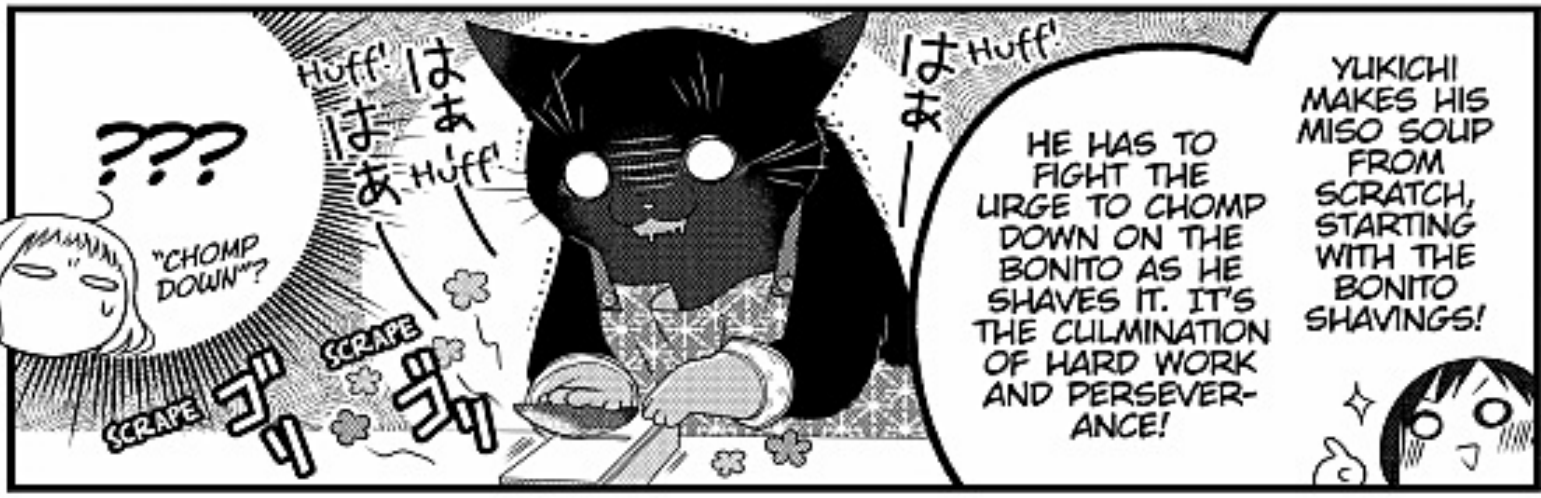

GREAT!
THEN LET'S EAT TOGETHER.
NOD NOD NOD
DO YOU EAT BREAKFAST, NISHINA-SAN?

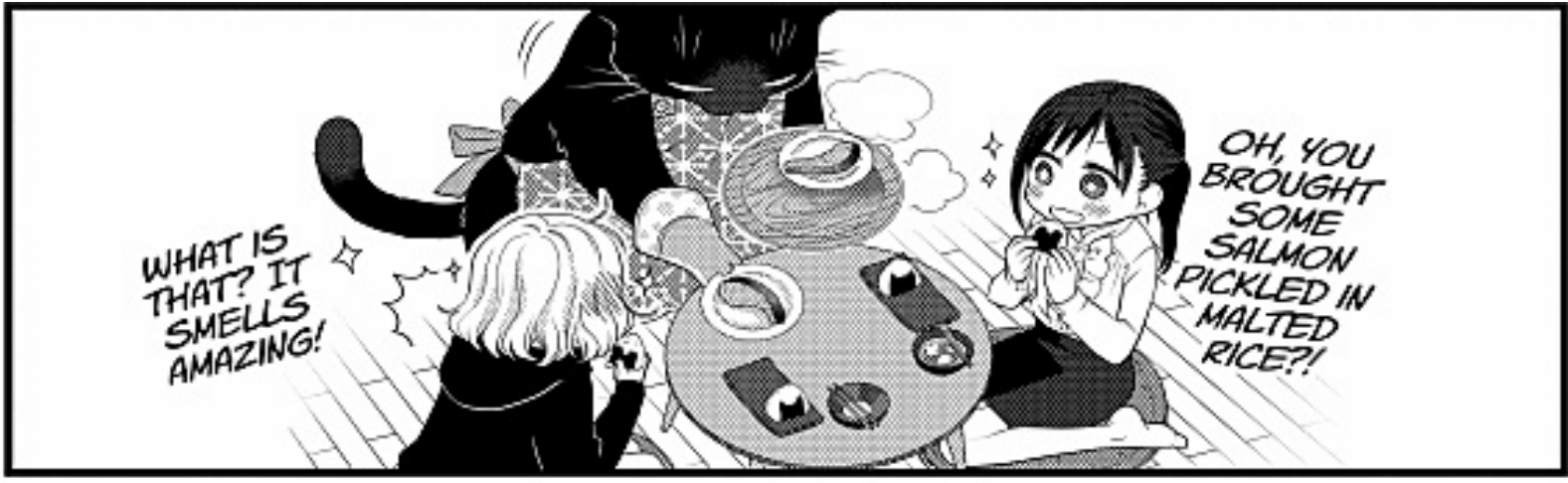

UM, BUT FIRST PLEASE ACCEPT TH--
PUT IT AWAY.
SHFF...
.....


Slurp...

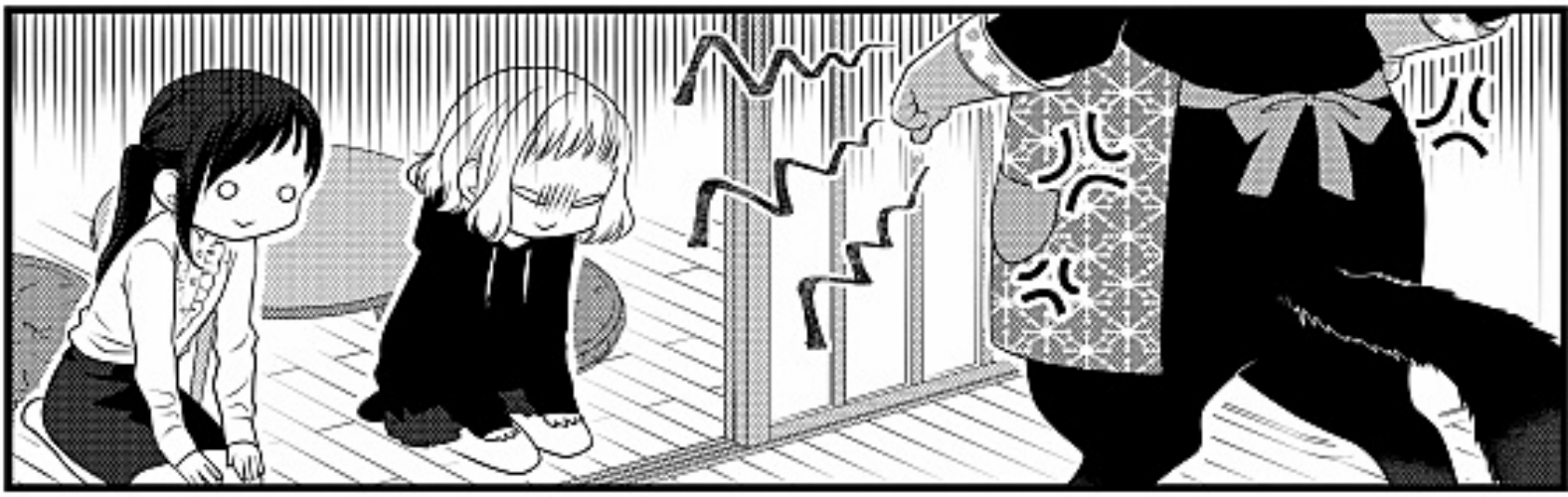
GLAD YOU LIKE IT!
GULP!
SLURP!
WHOA!
IT'S DELICIOUS!

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD MISO SOUP THIS TASTY.
I THINK...
steamy

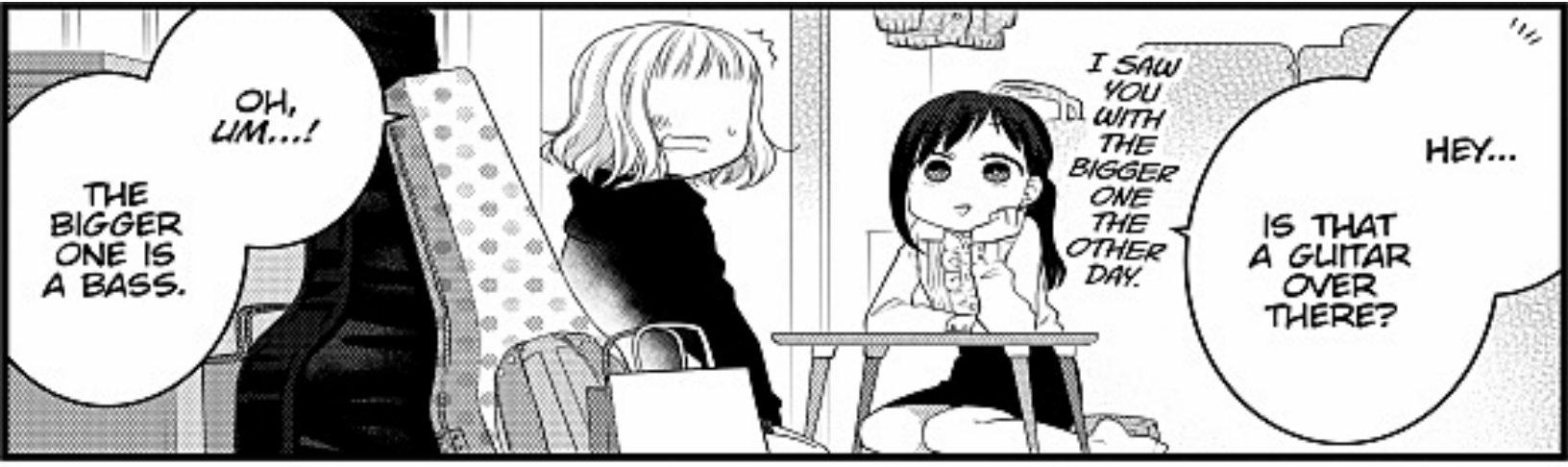

???
"CHOMP DOWN"?
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
HE HAS TO FIGHT THE URGE TO CHOMP DOWN ON THE BONITO AS HE SHAVES IT. IT'S THE CULMINATION OF HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE!
YUKICHI MAKES HIS MISO SOUP FROM SCRATCH, STARTING WITH THE BONITO SHAVINGS!

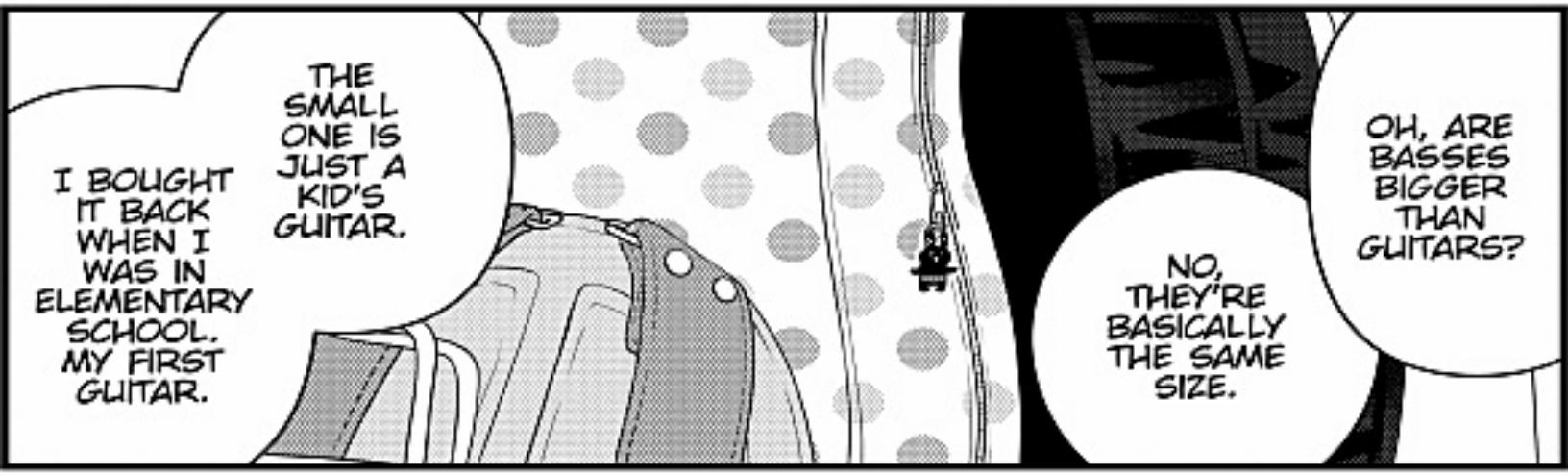

WHAT IS THAT? IT SMELLS AMAZING!
OH, YOU BROUGHT SOME SALMON PICKLED IN MALTED RICE?!

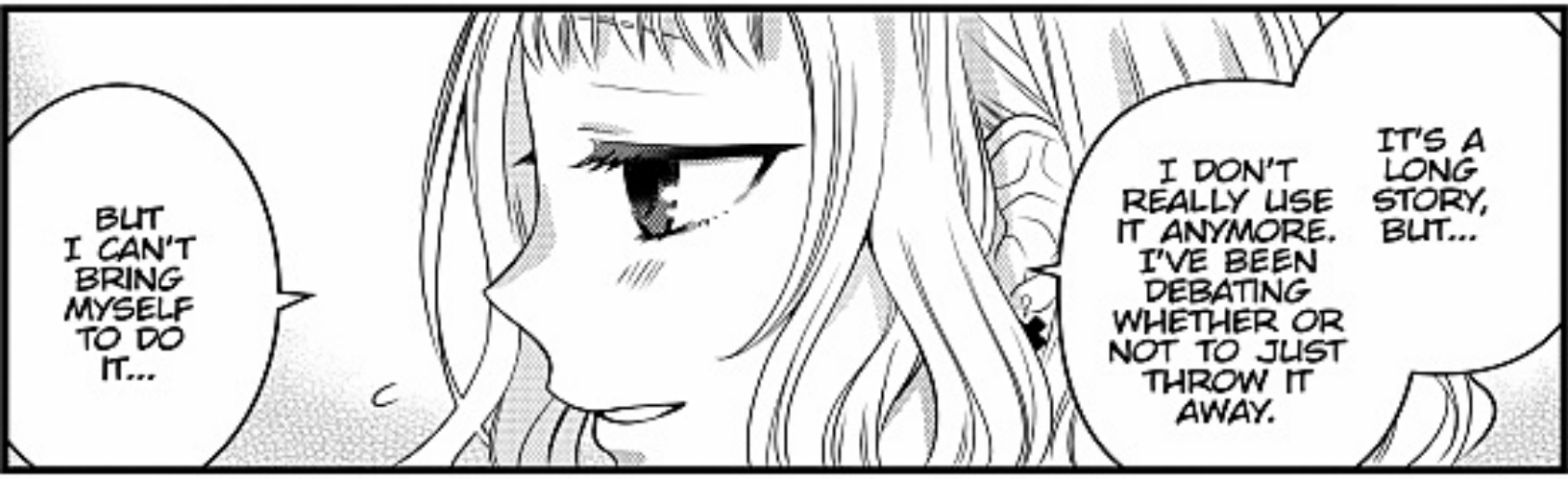
CLATTER
I'LL DO THE DISHES!
I GOT IT!
うわっ
AHH, NO!
ACK!
CLATTER
OOPS!
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!



SHHH!
I THOUGHT I SAW MY MOM FOR A SECOND.


OH, UM...!
THE BIGGER ONE IS A BASS.
I SAW YOU WITH THE BIGGER ONE THE OTHER DAY.
HEY...
IS THAT A GUITAR OVER THERE?


I BOUGHT IT BACK WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. MY FIRST GUITAR.
THE SMALL ONE IS JUST A KID'S GUITAR.
NO, THEY'RE BASICALLY THE SAME SIZE.
OH, ARE BASSES BIGGER THAN GUITARS?


BUT I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO DO IT...
I DON'T REALLY USE IT ANYMORE. I'VE BEEN DEBATING WHETHER OR NOT TO JUST THROW IT AWAY.
IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT...

YOU THINK SO?
YEAH.
SO DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU SHOULDN'T THROW IT AWAY?

"I WANT TO KEEP GOING BUT I ALSO WANT TO QUIT.

"BUT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO STOP.

MY MOM SAID SOMETHING SIMILAR AGES AGO.

"I LOVE IT BUT I ALSO HATE IT.

IS YOUR MOTHER ALSO...

A MUSICIAN?

"IT'S NOT A MATTER OF WHETHER I'M GOOD OR BAD AT IT.

"IT'S THAT I CAN'T IMAGINE A LIFE WHERE I'M NOT PLAYING IT."

WHEN I WAS A KID, I WAS SO EXCITED.

I THOUGHT, SOMEDAY I'LL FIND SOMETHING THAT MADE ME FEEL THAT WAY.

WHEN I GROW UP!

I WONDER WHAT I'LL BE...

YEAH.

MY DAD ISN'T A MUSICIAN, BUT HE'S ALSO IN A SIMILAR POSITION.

THWUMP!

BUT DIDN'T YOU DO SOME KIND OF MARTIAL ART?!

WHAT?!

WHAP

ALTHOUGH, ULTIMATELY, I NEVER FOUND ANYTHING LIKE THAT, *HA HA.*

CAN ZZ

I TRIED ALL SORTS OF THINGS, BUT...

I COULDN'T FIND IT.

NOTHING MADE ME FEEL LIKE I COULDN'T BEAR TO STOP.

NOT EVEN ONE.

WAS THAT...

DIFFICULT FOR YOU?

IT REALLY WAS!

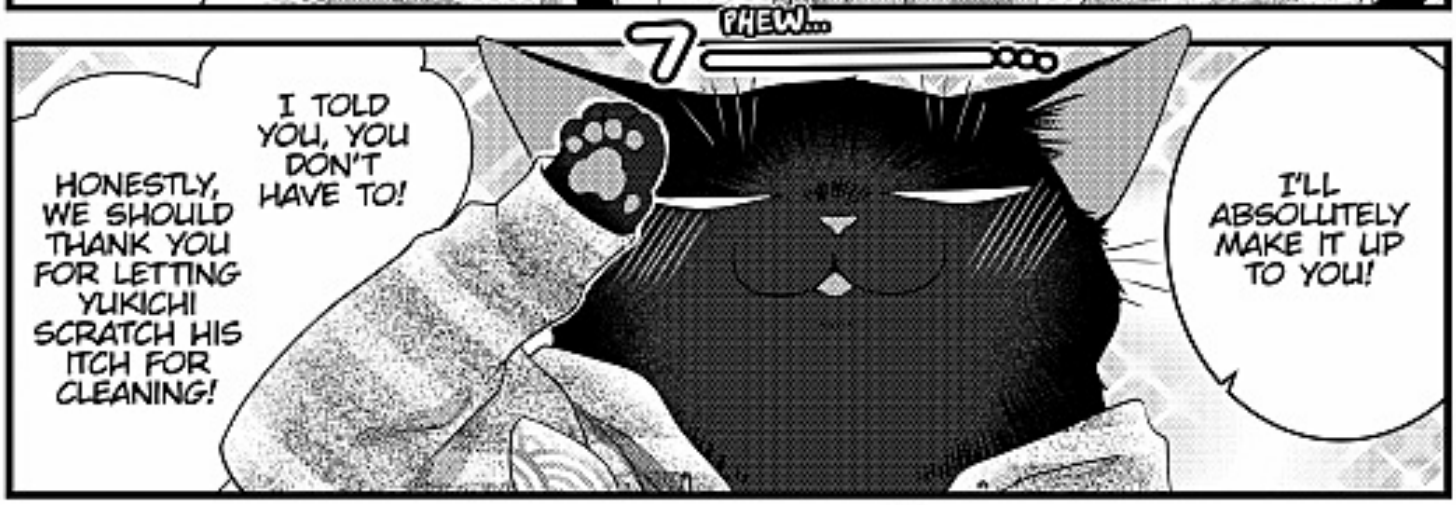
I THOUGHT IT WAS SOMETHING THAT EVERYONE HAD, SO I STRESSED OUT A LOT MORE THAN I HAD TO!

SO...

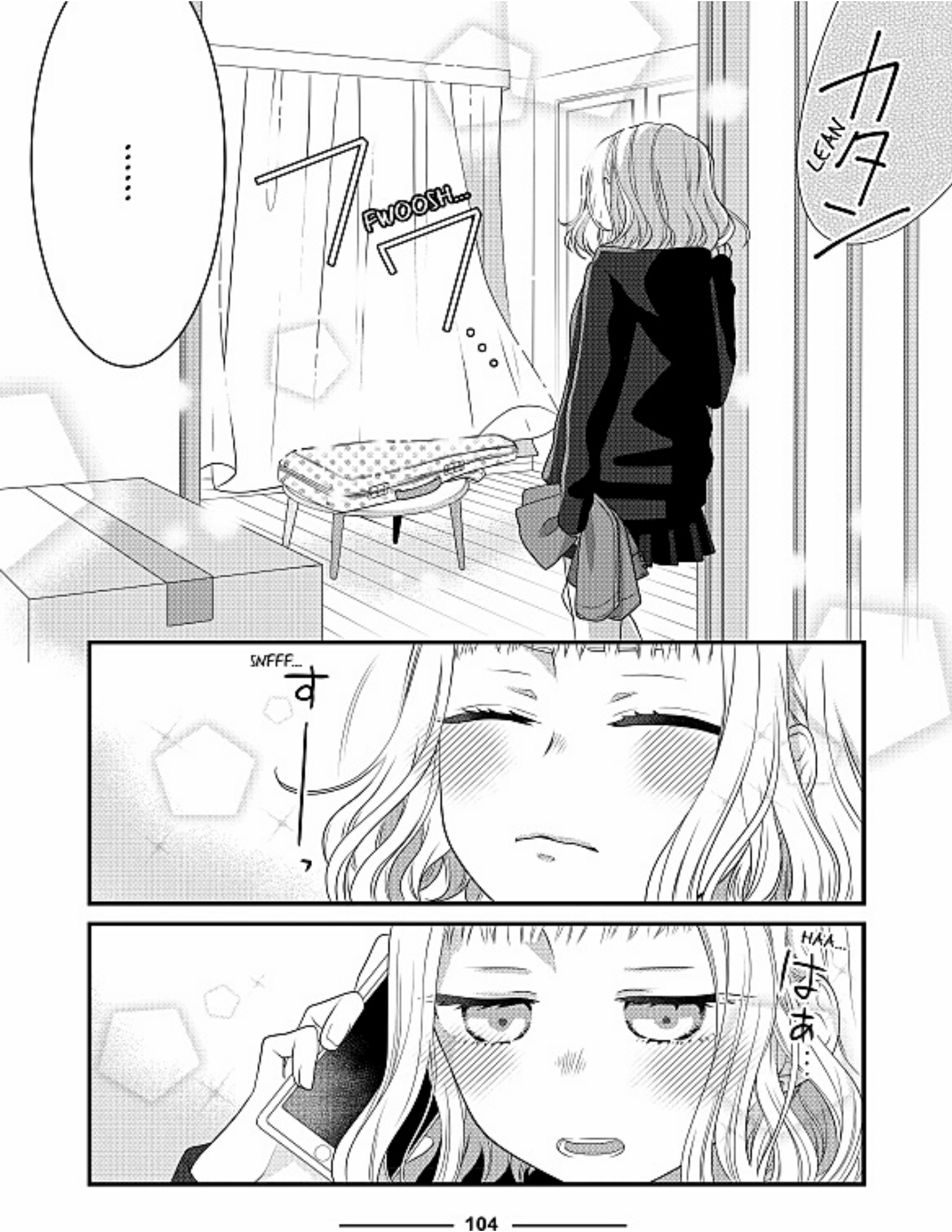
I HOPE YOU DON'T THROW THAT ALL AWAY.

"PLAY SOMETHING FOR ME."
"YOU KNOW...
YEAH...
"I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN."
ALL RIGHT.

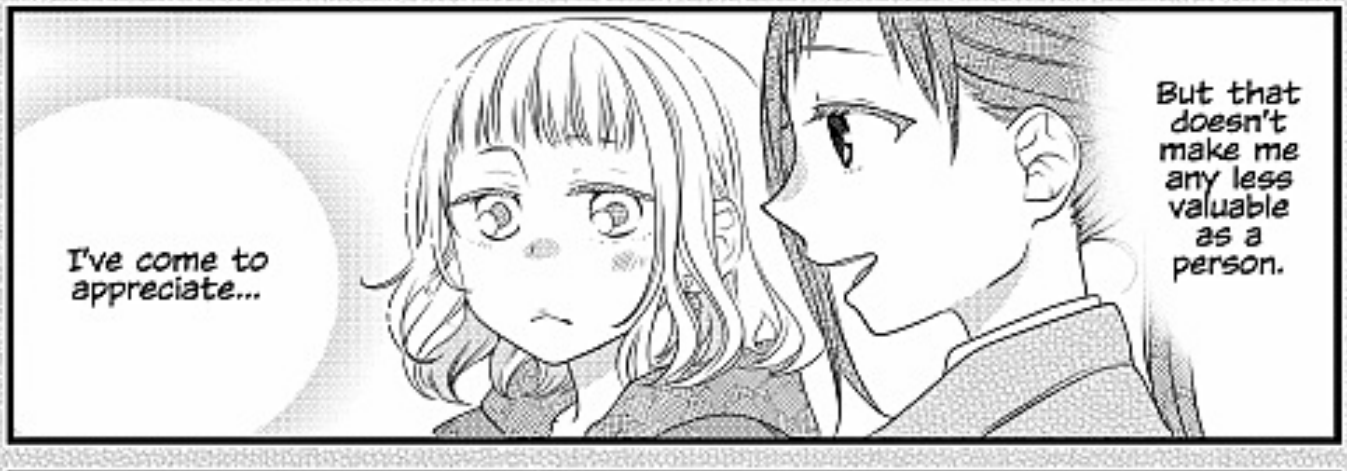
CLAKAKA
ガララ
KA-CHAK
SORRY YOU ENDED UP HELPING ME TAKE OUT THE GARBAGE, TOO.
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

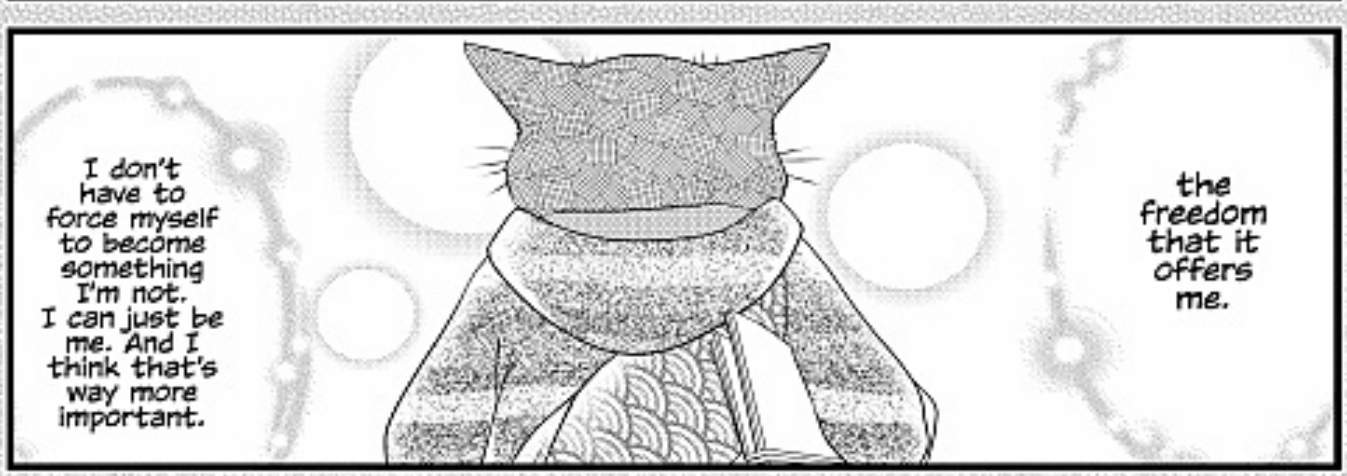

PHEW...
I'LL ABSOLUTELY MAKE IT UP TO YOU!
I TOLD YOU, YOU DON'T HAVE TO!
HONESTLY, WE SHOULD THANK YOU FOR LETTING YUKICHI SCRATCH HIS ITCH FOR CLEANING!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!
BOTH OF YOU!


……
FWOOSH...
LEAN
カタ
SNFFF...
すー
HAA...
はあ…

Also, I know I said it was a difficult time for me, but I'm okay now.
Not everyone has a dream they'd bet their whole life on...
and not everyone has a natural talent they can make a career out of.


But that doesn't make me any less valuable as a person.
I've come to appreciate...


the freedom that it offers me.
I don't have to force myself to become something I'm not. I can just be me. And I think that's way more important.

Plus, I've seen first-hand what it's like to have a dream you can't give up. It can be **hell.**
I KNOW TWO PEOPLE LIKE THAT...
YIKES...

VRZZZ
VRZZZ

YEAH.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SLEPT THIS WELL.
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU GOT A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, THOUGH.
BEEP
RIO?
HEY AYA, SORRY FOR CALLING SO EARLY. DID I WAKE YOU UP?
OH YEAH?
NO, IT'S OKAY.
SO I GUESS THIS MEANS YOU'VE MADE A DECISION.
YEAH.

I LOVE YOUR SONGS SO...
I'LL STILL BE ROOTING FOR YOU.
YEAH?
I WISH YOU LOVED THEM ENOUGH TO STAY.
MM. SORRY.
LET'S CATCH UP NEXT TIME.
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'VE HAD A MOMENT OF CLARITY.
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
HA HA!
YEAH.
I HAD SOME REALLY, REALLY GOOD MISO SOUP.
CAN I HAVE A BEER WHEN I GET HOME?
I DIDN'T GET ONE YES-TERDAY. ♡
AW, WHYYYY? SO STINGY!
WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?
NEXT TIME WE MEET UP, I WANT THE FULL STORY!!!

CAN 69 END

See you in volume 3

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

IS A DAY I WILL SURELY NEVER FORGET.
THE DAY I FIRST COOKED RICE...
どやあ
HEH...
.....
UM.
HUH...?

IS... IS THIS EDIBLE?
SURPRISED, ARE YOU?
HEH HEH HEH.
I HAVEN'T SEEN ONE IN FOR-EVER!
WHY IS THERE A RICE COOKER IN MY APART-MENT?!
WH-WHA...?! WHY?!
SHOCK
AN UNDER-STANDABLE REACTION.
CHEW...
COME NOW!
WELL?!
GULP...
SHOWER ME WITH THE PRAISE THAT I, THE AMAZING MASTERFUL CAT, SO RIGHTFULLY DESERVE!

MAYBE I SHOULD QUIT MY JOB.
WHAT?!
QUIT? JOB?
WHAT ARE THESE STRANGE WORDS, SO BURDENED BY UNCERTAINTY? SURELY, THEY MUST BE SOME SORT OF CURSE!
ALTHOUGH, THEY DON'T SOUND ENTIRELY UNFAMILIAR.
WHERE HAVE I HEARD THEM BEFORE...?
GASP!
!!
SIIIGH...
IF MY FAMILY FINDS OUT I QUIT MY JOB WITHOUT TELLING THEM, THEY'LL KILL ME...
HOW LONG AM I GOING TO KEEP UP THIS LIE...?
GLOOM
じめ
GLOOM
じめ

NOW, WAIT JUST A MINUTE. WHY IS IT NOW THAT YOU'VE CHOSEN DEATH?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? WAS I SLEEPWALKING? DO I HAVE SOME SORT OF MEMORY DISORDER?
BA-DMP
ドクン
WHY IS THERE RICE COOKING WHEN I HAVE NO MEMORY OF SETTING THIS UP?!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T THE ONE WHO SET IT UP!
BA-DMP
ドクン
GASP!
YOU KNOW WHAT'S TRULY SCARY?! THE FACT THAT YOU HAD ABSOLUTELY NO QUALMS ABOUT LIVING IN SQUALOR!
BESIDES, THAT'S NOT THE POINT RIGHT NOW!
SHOOT!
YOU JUST NOTICED?!
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THE APARTMENT FEELS CLEANER THAN BEFORE. WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN?
I'M SCARED!
WHERE DID THE TRASH GO?!

HUMANS ARE TRULY INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

GLOOM

SHE'S JUST GOING TO LEAVE AFTER ALL THAT?!

CRAP, I'M GONNA BE LATE!

THUMP THUMP THUMP

RUSTLE RUSTLE

WHOOSH

KA-CHAK

IF SHE QUITS HER JOB, THAT WOULD MEAN...

THIS LINE OF THINKING MAKES NO SENSE TO ME.

SHE HAS NO MEMORY OF COOKING THIS RICE, THEREFORE SHE MUST QUIT HER JOB?

CRASH

DAYTIME SOAP OPERA

SHATTER

HOW'RE WE GOING TO FEED OURSELVES IF YOU DON'T WORK?!

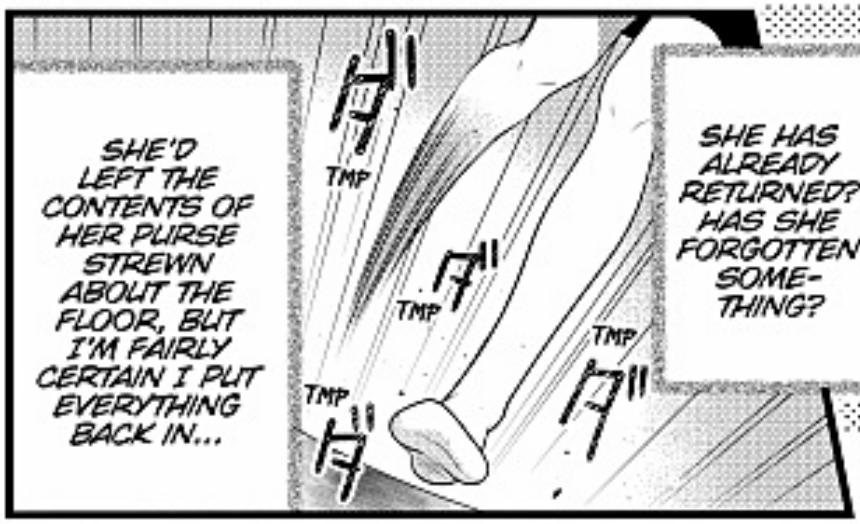
AND HOW EXACTLY **WERE** YOU PLANNING ON SUPPORTING YOUR FAMILY NOW?!

HOW COULD YOU JUST UP AND QUIT YOUR JOB?!

WHY HAS THIS HAPPENED?! WHERE'D I GO WRONG?!
ACCORDING TO MY PLAN, IT SHOULD HAVE GONE...
SHAKE SHAKE
SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE
!!!
OHMIGOSH. YOU'RE A GENIUS! THE ONE AND ONLY, MAGNIFICENT, MASTERFUL CAT!
WHAAAT?! YOU COOKED RICE FOR ME?!
LIKE THIS.
AND THEN...
THIS ACCURSED HUMAN...
INSISTS ON ACTING IN WAYS THAT DEFY EXPECTATION.
THAT'S HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO GO!
O GREAT YUKICHI! I SHALL CONTINUE TO TOIL AWAY AT THE OFFICE SO I MAY OFFER YOU THE FINEST CAT FOOD AS TRIBUTE!
HA HA HA!

WELL...
SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY.
I SUPPOSE...
THE TITLE OF "MASTERFUL CAT."
I DO NOT DESERVE...
Hmph.
SILLY ME.
HOW COULD I BECOME SO FLUSTERED OVER SUCH A SMALL THING?
SHWIF

KA-CHAK
カチャ
FLINCH
BAM


SHE'D LEFT THE CONTENTS OF HER PURSE STREWN ABOUT THE FLOOR, BUT I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN I PUT EVERYTHING BACK IN...
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
SHE HAS ALREADY RETURNED? HAS SHE FORGOTTEN SOME-THING?

HM?

SLUMP
I QUIT...

WHAT CRYPTIC LANGUAGE IS THIS, HUMAN?
MY BOSS GOT SO MAD, HE SAID I WAS "TERMINATED, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!"
HA HA.
SHAKE カタ
SHAKE カタ
RESIGNATION? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
Huff!
I TURNED IN MY RESIGNATION THE FIRST THING THIS MORNING.
Huff!
WHAT?
Huff!
AND...
Sigh...
IT WAS AWFUL. I COULDN'T RIDE THE TRAIN OR CATCH A TAXI.
Ah ha ha...
THEN I SPILLED COFFEE ALL OVER MYSELF!
WHAT IS THIS OVERWHELMINGLY BITTER SCENT?

WHY AM I BLABBING ON ABOUT THIS TO A CAT...?

INDEED.

A CAT CANNOT POSSIBLY UNDER-STAND A WORD YOU'RE SAYING.

HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SUFFERED...

TO BECOME...

THIS BRUISED AND BLOODIED.

HE CANNOT UNDER-STAND...

HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE WORLD YOU FACE...

OR HOW YOU MAY FEEL.

JUST HOW MUCH YOU HAVE HURT.
ゆう
SQUEEZE
YUKICHI?
YOU DON'T MIND THE COFFEE SMELL?
SNATCH
YOU'VE GOTTEN A BIT BIGGER, YUKICHI!
I FEEL LIKE...
THIS WON'T DO.

EVEN IF I WERE ABLE TO TAKE OUT THE GARBAGE...
EVEN IF I COULD COOK RICE...
EVEN IF I TRY TO GROW LARGER...
A CAT WHO CAN'T EVEN PROTECT ONE STUPID HUMAN.
IT WOULDN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT I AM A CAT.
YET STILL, I...
PLEASE STAY WITH ME.

I KNOW...
THAT I'M A USELESS, UNRELIABLE OWNER, BUT...
PLEASE DON'T...
LEAVE ME ALL ALONE!

SHE WAS A MESS.
CRYING REALLY WORKS UP AN APPETITE!
SHE CONTINUED TO CRY FOR A BIT.
GRMBL
SHOCK
HONESTLY, YOU REALLY ARE A USELESS HUMAN.
NOW QUIT YOUR BLUB-BERING...
MUNCH.
MUNCH.
SHE THEN PROCEEDED TO EAT THE RICE...
STRAIGHT OUT OF THE RICE COOKER, USING THE PADDLE.
THEN SHE CRIED SOME MORE.
EEP...
AND ACCEPT THE FACT THAT I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

ALTHOUGH, I MUST SAY...

COMPARED TO HER USUAL LIFELESS SMILE...THE ONE THAT LOOKED AS IF IT WERE MERELY PLASTERED ON...

SHE LOOKS MUCH, MUCH BETTER.

ぼすっ POFF

WHEW!

NOW THE BED IS BACK IN ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE.

BUT, WHY WAS IT BY THE DOOR IN THE FIRST PLACE?

I DON'T REMEMBER MOVING IT...

.....

SPARK
ぱち
NO, IT COULDN'T BE... RIGHT?
HON-ESTLY...
LIFE IS TRULY UNPREDICT-ABLE.
GOOD NIGHT....
YUKICHI.
END

AFTERWORD

THANK YOU FOR READING ALL THE WAY TO VOLUME 6!

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE GETTING AN ANIME ADAPTATION!!

THIS IS ALL THANKS TO MY FANTASTIC READERS! I'M TRULY, TRULY GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!!

THE BONUS CHAPTER ENDED UP BEING TOO LONG THIS TIME, SO I DECIDED TO SPLIT IT INTO TWO. THE SECOND PART WILL BE RELEASED WITH VOLUME 7. YUKICHI STILL DOESN'T GROW BIG YET, SO I APOLOGIZE TO EVERYONE WHO'S BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT.

SEE YOU IN THE NEXT VOLUME!

HITSUZI YAMADA

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

AND WHEN YOU'RE A MASTERFUL CAT...

CATS ARE NATURALLY CLEAN AND TIDY CREATURES.

カチャ KLAK

...

ザワ... MUTTER...

ザワ... MUTTER...

THEREFORE, IT FALLS UPON ME...

STAYING HOME IS THE BEST!

AND WHEN LEFT TO HER OWN DEVICES...

THIS PATHETIC HUMAN WON'T BUY SO MUCH AS A PAIR OF SOCKS.

YOU ALSO CONCERN YOURSELF WITH THE APPEARANCE OF YOUR USELESS OWNER (28 YEARS OLD, ♀).

THERE'S A CAT SHOPPING IN THE WOMEN'S SECTION...

TO FIND THE PERFECT OUTFIT.

カチャ KLAK

...

ONE THAT'S FASHIONABLE AND SUITABLE, WHILE STILL BEING EASY TO WASH AT HOME, WITH COLORS THAT MATCH HER SKIN TONE!

SIGH...

STAYING HOME IS THE BEST!

IS THAT THIS HUMAN ALMOST NEVER LEAVES THE HOUSE UNLESS IT'S TO GO TO WORK!

THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING WITH US!

THUD

どっ

G&U

BUT THE BIGGEST PROBLEM OF ALL...

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again Today

story and art by HITSUZI YAMADA VOLUME 6

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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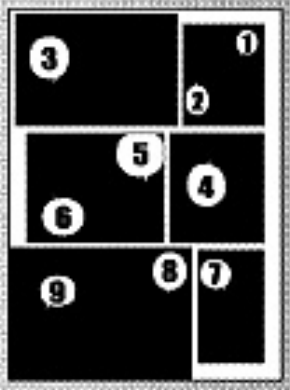
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



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Super Cat to the Rescue!

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TEEN (13+)

Nishina is a part-timer at the supermarket near Saku and Yukichi and has run into them a few times. One day, she faints from overwork and lack of sleep. When Saku takes her home to rest, it turns out that Nishina's home is a total mess—almost as bad as Saku's place before she took in Yukichi! Saku can't bear to leave Nishina in these conditions, which means it's time to call in the one and only masterful cat, Yukichi!!